PIXAR LAUNCHES STUDIO IN GASTOWN, PG4

Celebrity Buzz

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pg 30

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VANCOUVER • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2010 metronews.ca

Vancouver leads Canada in mixed-race couples

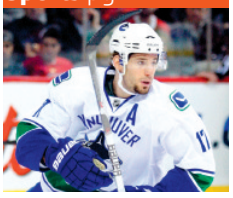
CENSUS Vancouver has the most interracial couples in the country, according to Statistics Canada.

The 2006 census shows there were 289,400 mixed-race couples in Canada, with Vancouver home to 8.5 per cent of them, leading Toronto (7.1 per cent) and Montreal (4.4 per cent).

Canadian mixed-race couples have gone up by 33 per cent since the 2001 census. **WESTON STEELE/ METRO VANCOUVER**

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 5

Sports pg 11



Kesler a Selke nominee

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KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

A woman reacts to a portrait of a cancer patient on display near Granville and Hastings streets yesterday. The free travelling exhibit, Cancer Connections, is being funded by the Canadian Cancer Society and displays the human side of cancer.

Cancer's human face on display in Vancouver

Photo exhibit depicts how disease affects patients, families

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

The face of cancer — sometimes graphic, sometimes subtle — is on display in downtown Vancouver in the form of hundreds of black and white photos portraying Canadian cancer patients.

The free outdoor exhibit called Cancer Connections shows women boldly displaying mastectomy scars, a little boy playing the violin at his mother's headstone and a pair of loafers at a man's grave, put there because he continues to be so real to his family they say "he might still need his shoes."

The photos for Cancer Connections — which is travelling the country — were taken by professionals and amateurs and expose the good, the bad and the ugly about living with cancer, said Barbara Kaminsky, CEO of the Canadian Cancer Society, which is helping to fund the show.

"Behind every cancer statistic there is a human story," she said. "The beauty of this exhibit is it tells the human side of the cancer experience."

Connections

- Cancer Connections is on display at 200 Granville Street and will be here until May 2.

Lorelei Velestuk was diagnosed with colon cancer around three years ago and her photo is on display in Vancouver.

"Everybody's experience (with cancer) is so unique, and yet here we all are gathered like this," said Velestuk, who is now healthy. "(I) don't have that alone feeling like (I) used to."

Margaret McDermid, MLA for Vancouver-Fairview, a doctor and a breast cancer survivor, said the pictures show the humour, love, compassion and sorrow that come with cancer.

She said she used dark humour to get her through treatment.

"You find humour in the strangest places," she said. "Everyone's journey is different and there's not any right way to go through it."

"People can have cancer but there's always a reason to be hopeful. We can live well for the time that we have."

Witherspoon, Canadian firms making film on Virk slaying

PARTNERSHIP A production company owned by actress Reese Witherspoon is teaming up with two Canadian companies to develop a film about the Reena Virk slaying.

Witherspoon

Witherspoon's company, Type A Films, has partnered with Brightlight Pictures and Rhombus Media on the project.

The B.C. girl was beaten and drowned near Victoria, after being bullied by a group of teens in 1997.

Virk

Under the Bridge will be based on a 2005 book on the killing by Rebecca Godfrey.

Liz Levine, Brightlight's executive director of development, says they expect to announce the main cast, director and writer within the next two months.

She says production is expected to begin in 2011 in British Columbia, with a release date set for 2011-2012.

"Everybody comes to the story with the realization that this is an important story to tell," says Levine, adding that Witherspoon will be "really intimately involved."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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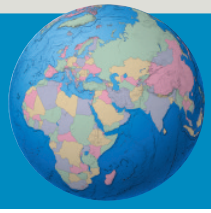

Cool Globes for Earth Day

Tomorrow, Earth Day, Science World will unveil 23 globes, each weighing one tonne as part of a new exhibit. Each of the globes in Cool Globes: Hot Ideas for a Cooler Planet, is painted by a different artist or schoolchildren to spotlight particular aspects of global warming. METRO VANCOUVER

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News in brief

CUTS The Richmond School Board has cut 94 jobs to deal with its $6 million deficit. Librarians, custodians and educational assistants were among the terminated positions. The board is also considering a two-week spring break as another cost-cutting measure.

CHARGED Three people have been charged after police caught them with a pair of pin pads swiped from a clothing store and a restaurant on the North Shore.

FIRE An almost completed house in Surrey was destroyed by a suspicious fire on Sunday night. The fire melted the siding of nearby homes.

EXPOSURE RCMP are seeking a man who exposed himself to a woman near the Galloping Goose Trail, the same trail where Kimberly Proctor's body was found burned.

DEATH A woman is dead after her Coquitlam house caught fire early Monday morning. Fire crews arrived at the 2500 block of Burian Drive and transported her to hospital where she was pronounced dead.

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LAURA FORTEY/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

From left, Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, Trevor Linden, Simon Whitfield and Scott Frandsen yesterday at the announcement of the GranFondo Whistler Cycling event.

Ride slated for Sea-to-Sky Highway

EVENT Four thousand cyclists, including former Olympians and hockey players, will be rolling through the hills on the Sea-to-Sky Highway from Vancouver to Whistler on Sept. 11 in an European-style ride.

B.C. is sectioning off one lane of the Sea-to-Sky to host its own version of GranFondo — "big endurance" in Italian — to give cyclists of all abilities a chance to bike 120 kilometres along the scenic highway.

"People have always wanted to do the ride, but didn't want to get sucked into an 18-wheeler," said Matt Freeman of GranFondo Canada.

Originally planned for 2,000 riders, the event had such an overwhelming response from social networking sites and word of mouth that there was no need for any marketing, said Scott Frandsen, a rower who won silver in the Beijing Olympics. He now works for RBC, which is sponsoring the ride.

Former Canucks captain Trevor Linden, who started cycling 10 to 12 years ago, said the bottom line is to have fun.

"Everyone will be looking forward to that weekend, the finish line and possibly a cold beverage at the end," said Linden.

LAURA FORTEY/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Duo party their way out of charges

COURT Two men have been cleared of a raft of drug and weapons offences, in part because a judge ruled their Yaletown condo was too much of a party pad to ensure the illegal goods belonged to them.

B.C. Supreme Court Judge Terence Schultes has convicted James Raich of two counts of possessing a Glock handgun without the proper paperwork, while Barry Espadilla has been found guilty of two drug-possession charges.

The men were charged after a police raid on their rented suite two years ago.

Eight guns, including one with a silencer, bullet-proof vests, ammunition, drug paraphernalia, and cocaine and heroin worth $30,000 were seized.

Raich was convicted in connection with the Glock because it was found tucked under his mattress, while Espadilla admitted the drugs were his, but both were cleared of the remaining charges because the judge ruled there wasn't enough evidence to prove they had knowledge or control over the items.

The trial heard several people had unauthorized keys to the apartment, visitors sometimes entered without being "buzzed up" and guests slept over after parties. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Social housing may be halved

Council to debate different options for Olympic Village

Vancouver may chop the affordable housing component of its over-budget Olympic Village in two, keeping half of the units for social housing and renting the remaining suites at market value to essential services workers like police officers and firefighters.

Three different options will be debated in council tomorrow.

Even by renting half the units at fair market value (based on size and location) as staff recommend, the city would carry a rental-supported mortgage of $46 million and would still be on the hook for $32.1 million in additional funding.

"It's unfortunate that we couldn't have more social housing on the site," said Mayor Gregor Robertson. "The financial realities are forcing us to scale back somewhat."

Vancouver has already committed $32 million in funding, most from the $30 million VANOC paid the city to build the village. It donated the land, which is valued at $28 million, for free.

The 252-unit social housing component increased to $110 million from an estimated $64 million in 2006.

The city blames the inflated costs on the large unit size and common areas, environmental design, short timeline, and a hot construction market.

The city says the 50/50 split meets a "mixed-income model" of affordable housing and is in line with its social-housing goal of 20 per cent. JEFF HODSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

Rentals limited

- The market rental units will be limited to households with a monthly income of less than five times the market rent.
- A four-bedroom suite renting at $2,368 a month would be limited to families with annual incomes of less than $142,000.

TransLink widget helps plan routes

ONLINE TransLink has launched an online device that can be installed on any website or blog to help travellers find the best transit routes.

The free trip planner widget is a miniaturized version of the TransLink Trip Planner, where commuters can enter the start and end points of a journey, along with the date and time, and find out how to take the journey by transit.

The widget is just latest in a growing range of web and mobile products being developed by TransLink, including a text messaging service that provides the next six scheduled arrival times at a given bus stop.

METRO VANCOUVER

BCIT students challenge the skies
About 40 BCIT aerospace students are taking part tomorrow in a paper-airplane design and flight competition in Richmond. METRO VANCOUVER

LAURA FORTEY/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

People light up at a pro-marijuana rally at 4:20 p.m. yesterday outside the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Pot rally lights up

'Respectful' crowd of more than 10,000 on hand

LAURA FORTEY
for Metro Vancouver

More than 10,000 people lit up at 4:20 p.m. yesterday at a pro-marijuana rally at a packed Vancouver Art Gallery square.

"The government should stop wasting money trying to stop (people smoking it) and just make it legal," said Adrian Barca, a 4-20 demonstration participant.

Vancouver police controlled traffic and blocked off Howe Street while turning a blind eye to the illegal activity lighting up behind them.

A police officer on crowd control said "we want to make sure everyone is safe." He added the crowd has been "generally respectful, we've no problems at all so far."

Barca said this is his third rally outside the VAG.

"I've never seen any sort of violence whatsoever."

Pot advocate Guppy Fish showed up in a "free Marc" T-shirt — a reference to Vancouver's Marc Emery who faces jail in the U.S. for selling marijuana seeds to Americans over the Internet. This is his seventh yearly rally.

"This is one of the busiest 4-20s I've experienced," said Fish.

He suggested that the larger gathering may in part be due to people attending in support of Emery.

Emery has reached a plea agreement to serve a five-year prison term in an American jail. A decision on whether he is to be extradited is expected by May 10.

Similar rallies were held across Canada, including in Toronto and on Parliament Hill.

Bookstores told to keep look out for U.S. fugitive

VICTORIA At least two bookstores in Victoria have been asked to keep an eye out for fugitive James J. Bulger, the man believed to have inspired Jack Nicholson's character in the film The Departed.

The 80-year-old Bulger is one of the FBI's 10 most wanted and is alleged to have played a role in 19 murders while he led a Boston-area organized crime group.

Bulger has been on the run for 15 years and is described as an "avid reader," which might explain why the Victoria bookstores have been told to watch out for him.

The FBI says he's also known to frequent libraries and historic sites and maintains his physical fitness by walking on beaches and in parks with his female companion.

Bulger is between five-foot-seven and five-foot-nine, weighs 150 to 160 pounds, has a medium build, white hair and blue eyes.

He's also wanted on racketeering, extortion, narcotics and money laundering charges. The FBI says he should be considered armed and dangerous because he carries a knife at all times and has a violent temper. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FBI reward

- The FBI is offering a $2-million reward for information leading directly to Bulger's arrest.

Beer still fave in B.C. as liquor sales up in '08

STATS B.C. residents spent an average of $790 on alcohol in 2008, according to Statistics Canada.

And beer continues to be British Columbians' favourite alcoholic drink, with $315 of that amount spent on beer alone.

That's a 3.9 per cent increase in liquor sales over the previous year, slightly higher than the national average of 3.6 per cent.

Saskatchewan had the highest increase of alcohol sales of any province at 13.5 per cent, and Alberta the lowest, jumping a mere 0.9 per cent. Yukon had the highest per-capita sales in 2008, with each citizen spending more than $1,000 on liquor and nearly $600 on beer. WESTON STEELE/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

POLYGAMY REVIEW A B.C. Supreme Court judge says polygamist leader Winston Blackmore is welcome to take part in a court review of Canada's polygamy law — but the government won't pay his legal bills. Blackmore went to court asking that he be made a party in the review and that government pay his legal bills.

HOSPITAL The RCMP are investigating allegations that surgical tools were tampered with at Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops. The incident involves the sterilization of instruments. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Bag check on B.C. Ferries?

B.C. Ferries is looking at introducing airport-style bag checks within three years. Passengers would be issued a stub once bags are tagged. The process is not expected to make the boarding process longer, according to the company. METRO VANCOUVER

Minister: Dam could be lucrative

VICTORIA B.C.'s energy minister says developing British Columbia's next mega dam could give the province the chance to sell clean, green power to Alberta and the United States.

Blair Lekstrom says the government plans to use the proposed Site C dam to meet B.C.'s future energy needs, but he's not denying exports are also part of the province's energy future.

The government announced Monday it intends to move ahead with decades-old plans to develop the Site C dam in northeastern B.C., sparking an outcry from environmentalists and First Nations who say the dam will flood valuable lands. THE CANADIAN PRESS

More trouble for Heed

LAWSUIT Embattled former B.C. solicitor general Kash Heed has another legal issue on his hands.

A constituency assistant Heed fired earlier this year has now filed a wrongful dismissal lawsuit in B.C. Supreme Court.

Keith Frew's lawsuit claims that at age 63, he was just a few years from retirement and his boss knew he'd just adopted a three-year-old boy.

"The defendant, Heed, was abrupt and rude to the plaintiff at the time of termination," said the lawsuit, filed Monday.

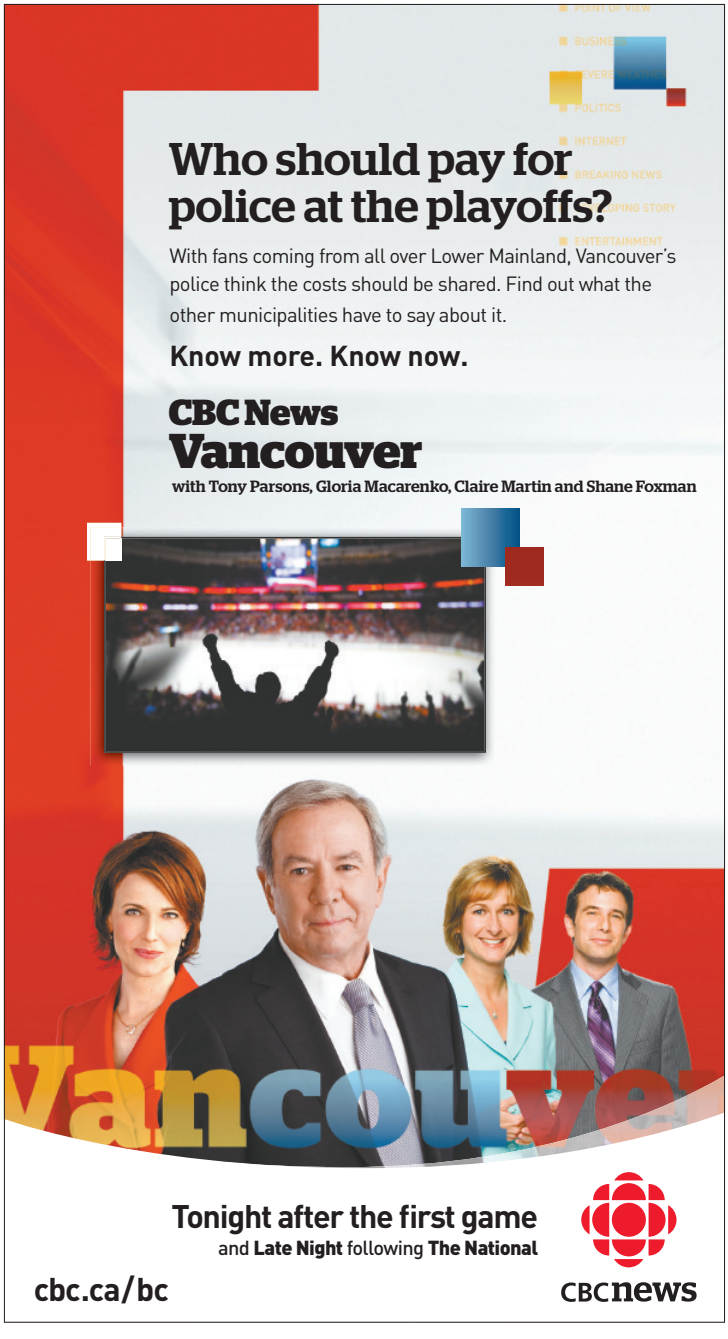
Frew, a Mission resident, was making $60,000 a year when he lost his job.

"The dismissal by the defendants without just cause and without reasonable notice constituted an arbitrary and wilful break of (Frew's) contract of employment with the defendants and a wrongful dismissal of the plaintiff," the lawsuit said.

Frew is seeking damages for breach of contract, along with the mental distress, anxiety and depression the dismissal caused. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Resignation

- Kash Heed resigned as solicitor general earlier this month after revealing he was part of an RCMP investigation involving election spending.



JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Mayor Gregor Robertson shows off his Buzz Lightyear figurine yesterday at Pixar's launch.

Pixar launches Gastown studio

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

Buzz Lightyear has touched down in Vancouver.

CGI animation giant Pixar, the Disney-owned studio with a resume of 10 hit movies including Toy Story, Monsters Inc. and WALL-E, launched its Canadian arm in Gastown yesterday. Pixar Canada aims to have 75 employees by 2012 and will produce short films, between three and five minutes in length, which feature characters from Toy Story and Cars movies.

Darwyn Peachey, the company's chief technical officer, said Vancouver was chosen because of its close proximity to L.A., its deep local talent pool and "very attractive" provincial tax credits.

Pixar Canada even has its own logo — the Pixar lamp (named Luxo Jr. after Pixar's first computer-animated short film) silhouetted over a red maple leaf.

Creative director Dylan Brown said the company had been in talks with the city for the past year and a half.

However, he added, the new company is already looking to move into new digs nearby. At several thousand square feet, the current office space is too small.

Brown said the company is looking for a 20,000- to 25,000-square-foot space in either Gastown, Downtown or Yaletown.

Mayor Gregor Robertson, who received a Buzz Lightyear figurine to commemorate the event, said the studio is exactly what Vancouver needs to grow its "green" economy.

New summer use for Richmond Oval

WESTON STEELE
for Metro Vancouver

VOLLEYBALL The Richmond Olympic Oval, originally built for speed skating, could be the site that turns Canada into a volleyball powerhouse through a new "Centre for Excellence" for the sport.

"Volleyball being a summer sport, we were looking for opportunities," said Tom Caverly, executive director of Volleyball B.C. He spoke at the Oval yesterday alongside Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie and Man in Motion Rick Hansen.

The goal of the new Pacific Volleyball Centre of Excellence is to turn Canada into a volleyball contender on the world stage. Canada has never finished on the podium for volleyball at the summer Olympics.

KIRSTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Members of Air Attack volleyball club practise at the Richmond Oval yesterday.

Caverly said the program promotes grassroots-level competition and will make volleyball a more "attractive" option than other sports if the right coaches and facilities are in place.

University of B.C. volleyball coach Doug Reimer will be one of the coaches mentoring players in the program, which he said serves as a "tent" for volleyball competition.

"Up until now, in Canada, there was no other place with ... top coaches dedicated to skill improvement of young kids," he said.

"That's really the vision here."

News in brief

VICTORIA A local police officer was recognized yesterday for catching a man who committed fraud over $1 million using a dead baby's identity. Sgt. Alan Cochrane was honoured alongside other officers.

COURTS A 34-year-old man and a 17-year-old girl appeared yesterday to face charges over a Monday car chase in West Vancouver. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada, U.S. square off in cyber war games
Six U.S. and Canadian military service academies are competing to see which can best defend a computer network from a cyber attack. The 10th annual Cyber Defence Exercise began Tuesday and runs through Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada

Hold the salt, say health authorities

Canadian health authorities are exploring ways to reduce salt intake. Health Canada has a sodium working group comprising government and industry representatives that has been meeting on the issue. Last fall the group agreed to an interim goal to reduce the levels of sodium in the Canadian diet to 2,300 mg per person per day by 2016, based on reducing sodium consumption by five per cent each year. It is estimated Canadians currently ingest 3,400 mg of salt a day. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feds ignore costs of policing: Association

LAW AND ORDER The federal government ignores the fact that its law-and-order agenda means higher costs for local cops, the country's largest police association said yesterday.

Charles Momy, president of the 41,000-member Canadian Police Association, said municipal police are being saddled with national issues on top of day-to-day crime, but get no extra cash.

Cyber crime — including child pornography, financial fraud and cyber-bullying — along with organized crime, emergency preparedness and national security are devouring police budgets, he said.

"While local police services must respond to traditional law-enforcement issues, there is a greater requirement to put resources into aspects of policing which are broader in scope and are driven by national issues," Momy told a news conference.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fees hurting tourism: Official

HOLIDAYS Canada needs to rethink its tourism strategy to regain its fading attractiveness as an international destination, the head of tour operator Transat said yesterday.

In a speech to business leaders, Jean-Marc Eustache said Canada is slipping down the list of must-see spots in the world because it has erected financial roadblocks for visitors and Canada is pricing itself out of the market by hiking security fees.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mixed-race unions on rise

StatsCan reveals big jump over 2001 numbers

A new study says the number of mixed-race couples has risen considerably in Canada.

Numbers gleaned from the last census indicate there were 289,400 mixed unions in 2006, 33.1 per cent more than in 2001.

"As Canada's population becomes increasingly diverse, there are more opportunities for people to marry or form relationships with someone from a different ethno-cultural background," Statistics Canada said in a release yesterday.

"Mixed unions, including both married and common-law couples, reflect one aspect of the diversity of families.

"They vary according to characteristics such as generational status of the spouses or partners, their birthplace and their particular visible-minority group."

About 247,600 of the mixed-race couples were comprised of one member of a visible-minority group and someone who was not a visible minority, the agency said — 3.3 per cent of all couples.

The remaining 41,800 mixed unions consisted of couples in belonging to different visible minorities — accounting for 0.6 per cent of all couples.

It says the proportion of mixed unions rose with the length of time spent in Canada, that they tended to be made up of younger couples, and that they're an urban phenomenon.

"Among first-generation visible minority Canadians (those born outside of Canada), 12 per cent were in mixed-union couples," said the agency.

"For second-generation Canadians who were members of a visible minority group the proportion in a mixed union was 51 per cent.

"It reached 69 per cent for third-generation visible-minority Canadians."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Japanese

- Overall, Japanese had the highest proportion marrying or forming partnerships outside of their visible-minority group. About 75 per cent of the 29,700 couples in which at least one person was Japanese involved a pairing with a non-Japanese person. They were followed by Latin Americans and blacks.

Info agency won't meet key target

HEALTH The $1.6-billion agency responsible for giving every Canadian an electronic health record acknowledges it won't meet a key target.

Canada Health Infoway Inc. had said for years that half the population would have an electronic health record by the end of 2010, and every Canadian would have one by 2016.

But Infoway acknowledged in an audit report from Auditor General Sheila General yesterday that the 50 per cent goal won't be reached until sometime in the first half of next year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Congo **Survivor's story**

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Honorine Kabuo, left, bids farewell to Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean following her visit to Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo yesterday. Kabuo was attacked by rebels in 2001 while walking through the bush with her husband and two-year-old son. Both her husband and son were killed after she was raped by four men. She was slashed in the neck and had her pregnant stomach cut open, but lived to tell of her now eight-year-old daughter she named Victory for her survival. Kabuo and her daughter both live with HIV contracted from rebels.

Liquor before beer in new booze survey

SALES The latest national figures suggest Canadian palettes — at least when it comes to alcohol — are becoming somewhat more sophisticated.

Beer and liquor stores and agencies sold $19.4 billion worth of alcoholic beverages during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009, three per cent more than in the previous year.

Statistics Canada attributes the dollar growth to an increase in sales of imported spirits and beer compared with domestic products, and a one per cent average increase in the cost of alcoholic beverages.

In litres of absolute alcohol — pure alcohol, free of water — the agency says the volume of sales of alcoholic beverages increased 1.6 per cent to 226.4 million litres.

But while beer by far remained the most popular alcoholic beverage in terms of both volume and dollar value, StatsCan says its market share declined.

In 1993, beer peaked at 53 per cent of dollar sales and wine accounted for 18; by 2009, the market share of beer had declined to 46 per cent, while wine had captured 29.

Beer stores and agencies sold 2.3 billion litres of beer in 2009.

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Tory MP says sorry for black-and-blue comment

A Conservative MP is apologizing for issuing a news release that compared Canadian police chiefs to a cult and urged Liberals to beat their leader, Michael Ignatieff, "black and blue." Saskatchewan MP Garry Breitkreuz said late yesterday that he did not write the release, issued under his name earlier in the day. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

PARKING An Ontario woman has pleaded guilty to an accident dubbed the "Worst Parking Job Ever!" in a YouTube video. Last fall, security video of Tripta Kaushal, 62, driving her SUV over other cars in a fitness club parking lot became an Internet hit. She was handed a $500 fine yesterday for failing to report an accident.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

One Good Neighbour deserves another

HEATHER BUCHAN
for Metro Canada

VOLUNTEERISM Yesterday marked the launch of a charitable initiative called the Good Neighbours Challenge 2010. It was founded by Delta Hotels and Resorts as part of the company's corporate social responsibility program and aims to raise $1 million for various Canadian charities.

As part of the challenge, throughout 2010, Delta employees will volunteer 10,000 hours to charities and organizations in communities across the country, with a focus on four key areas — improving access to affordable housing, protecting the environment, supporting neighbourhood causes and volunteering.

"This commitment is about supporting local organizations and neighbourhood causes," said Hank Stackhouse, Delta's president and CEO. "It's also about volunteering in our own backyard to build a stronger community for everyone to share."

E-Talk host Ben Mulroney, who attended yesterday morning's launch, echoed that sentiment, saying: "Good neighbours are foundation of any strong community. It's important to remember there are people in need right in our own neighbourhoods."

For more information, visit deltahotels.com/goodneighbours.

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Computer systems at risk in Ottawa

GOVERNMENT Tax refunds, EI and pension cheques could be at stake as government computer systems get old, the auditor general warns.

Despite the risk of failure in computers at major agencies, including the Canada Revenue Agency and the EI program, there's no overall plan in place to solve what is a multibillion-dollar problem.

Auditor General Sheila Fraser's latest report says many computer systems are still working, but as they age, many can't be updated and they get more expensive to operate.

"The most damaging risk is that an aging critical system could break down and prevent the government from delivering key services to the public — such as issuing income-tax refunds and employment insurance and pension cheques," said the report, released yesterday.

The government has known about the risks of aging systems for a decade, but still isn't putting enough money into up-to-date equipment and software, says the document.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jockeying begins for Guergis's seat

POLITICS Conservatives in the riding of embattled MP Helena Guergis are already chomping at the bit to run in her stead in the next federal election.

The electoral status of the Ontario MP for Simcoe-Grey remains in limbo since Prime Minister Stephen Harper removed her from the Conservative caucus over second-hand allegations of offshore financial accounts and potential blackmail.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Somalia won't shutter radio stations
Somalia's government yesterday backed off an order to close down radio stations in the capital that had obeyed an Islamist militia's order to stop playing music. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Civil rights pioneer dies at 98

Dorothy Height, who as longtime president of the National Council of Negro Women was the leading female voice of the 1960s civil rights movement in the United States, died yesterday. She was 98. Height, who continued actively speaking out into her 90s, had been at Howard University Hospital in Washington for some time. Height was on the platform at the Lincoln Memorial, sitting only a few feet from Martin Luther King when he gave his famous "I have a dream" speech at the civil rights march on Washington in 1963. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Worst yet to come?

Second Icelandic volcano may be primed for eruption

For all the worldwide chaos that Iceland's volcano has already created, it may just be the opening act.

Scientists fear tremors at the Eyjafjallajokull volcano could trigger an even more dangerous eruption at the nearby Katla volcano — creating a worst-case scenario for the airline industry and travellers around the globe.

A Katla eruption would be 10 times stronger and shoot higher and larger plumes of ash into the air than its smaller neighbour, which has already brought European air travel to a standstill for five days and promises severe travel delays for days more.

The two volcanos are side by side in southern Iceland, about 20 kilometres apart and thought to be connected by a network of magma channels.

Heathrow opens

- London's Heathrow Airport reopened yesterday as air traffic across Europe lurched back to life.

Katla, however, is buried under ice 500 metres thick — the massive Myrdalsjokull glacier, one of Iceland's largest. That means it has more than twice the amount of ice that the current eruption has burned through — threatening a new and possibly longer aviation standstill across Europe.

Pall Einarsson, professor of geophysics at the Institute of Earth Sciences at the University of Iceland, said one volcanic eruption sometimes causes a nearby volcano to explode, and Katla and Eyjafjallajokull have been active in tandem in the past. In fact, the last three times that Eyjafjallajokull erupted, Katla did as well. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What's the fallout if Iceland's volcano spews ash for months?

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Philippines **Dismay over decision**

PAT ROQUE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Catherine Nunez breaks into tears after a press conference yesterday in Manila. Nunez, together with other relatives of slain journalists, expressed dismay on the justice secretary's decision to clear two members of the Ampatuan clan of charges they conspired in the massacre of 57 people.

News in brief

GAZA Hamas rulers yesterday burned nearly two million pills of a painkiller many Gazans take recreationally because they say it relaxes them and provides temporary relief from the territory's hardships. Hamas Health Minister Basim Naim said authorities burned some 1.7-million pills of a drug called Tramadol that had been seized from smugglers who sneak it through tunnels under the Egyptian border. The move is part of Hamas' efforts to strengthen its grip on Gaza and impose its strict interpretation of Islam on the impoverished seaside territory's 1.5-million Palestinian residents.

CAMBODIA Police say that six farmers in northwestern Cambodia were killed Monday by lightning during torrential rains. Lightning deaths occur every year in Cambodia during the country's rainy season, which begins in late May, but rarely at this time of the year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sailors to recreate storied journey

PACIFIC Four adventurers set sail in an open boat from Tonga in a bid to re-enact the epic 7,040-kilometre survival voyage of Captain William Bligh of HMS Bounty fame when he was cast adrift by mutineers in 1789.

Bligh, widely acknowledged as an expert seaman, sailed a 14-metre open longboat with 18 crew from near Tonga to West Timor in 48 days, surviving partly by catching fish and seabirds and drinking rain water. The feat — achieved without charts or compass — has been portrayed in novels, poems and in several Mutiny on the Bounty films starring Hollywood luminaries such as Clark Gable, Marlon Brando, Charles Laughton and Anthony Hopkins.

The new expedition is sailing in a seven-metre open deck boat, the Talisker Bounty, which sports two small sails. The team expects to take seven weeks to cover the distance.

Led by Australian Don McIntyre, the expedition includes experienced Antarctic sailor David Bryce from Australia, Hong Kong businessman David Wilkinson and 18-year-old Briton Christopher Wilde.

"It is going to be really an adventure," McIntyre told reporters as they set sail late Monday for open sea near Tonga's Ha'apai group of islands. "Our boat is half the size of Bligh's boat, so the challenge is trying to survive on board. Our biggest fear is capsizing."

McIntyre said the group is trying to get close to what Bligh encountered by taking with them only what he had on board in 1789.

This included 16 pounds of pork, six quarts of rum, six bottles of wine and 28 gallons of water. Like Bligh, the crew has no modern navigational equipment.

The team will film their re-enactment of Bligh's saga of survival for a documentary.

The mutineers eventually settled on Pitcairn Island, where they burned Bligh's ship, the Bounty. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

221

Years since the journey of William Bligh. On April 28, the crew expects to be at the location of the storied mutiny to mark its anniversary before striking out on their journey across the South Pacific to Timor.

Top U.S. court strikes down law banning animal cruelty videos

WASHINGTON The U.S. Supreme Court struck down a law yesterday aimed at banning videos that show graphic violence against animals, saying it violates the right to free speech.

The justices, voting 8-1, threw out the criminal conviction of Robert Stevens, who was sentenced to three years in prison for videos he made about pit bull fights.

The law was enacted in 1999 to limit Internet sales of so-called crush videos, which appeal to a certain sexual fetish by showing women crushing to death small animals with their bare feet or high-heeled shoes.

The videos virtually disappeared once the measure became law, the government argued.

Animal rights groups, including the Humane Society of the United States and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and 26 states joined the Obama administration in support of the law.

But Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the majority, said the law goes too far, suggesting that a measure limited to crush videos might be valid.

Animal cruelty and dog fighting already are illegal throughout the United States.

Roberts said the law could be read to allow the prosecution of the producers of films about hunting. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Aerobics class gets reptilian surprise

The water aerobics class at a holiday park in northern Australia was postponed yesterday when an unwanted guest entered the pool — a five-foot-long crocodile. Workers at the park went to the pool to prepare it for the class when they were surprised to find the croc, which had apparently crawled under a fence from a nearby swamp. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

CHINA China ordered flags be flown at half-staff and a halt to all entertainment, including online games and sports events, for a national day of mourning yesterday to honour more than 2,000 people killed by a devastating earthquake in a remote Tibetan region.

POLAND Poland's government says it is providing financial help to the families of the victims of the April 10 plane crash in Russia that killed the president and first lady. Interior Ministry spokeswoman Malgorzata Wozniak says 87 families have so far gotten 40,000 zlotys ($10,000) each.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Church drawing more heat

SCANDAL The detention of an 83-year-old priest on Sunday in Brazil for allegedly abusing boys as young as 12 in a case involving lurid videotape and a congressional investigation is the latest scandal to hit the Roman Catholic Church in Latin America.

The allegations against Monsignor Luiz Marques Barbosa — and two other Brazilian priests — have made huge headlines throughout this Catholic nation and come amid accusations of sexual activity by priests across the region as well as in Europe and the U.S.

The scandal erupted when Brazilian television network SBT last month broadcast a tape of Barbosa in bed with a 19-year-old that was widely distributed on the Internet.

The station said the video was secretly filmed in January 2009 and sent anonymously to the network.

SBT reporters went to Barbosa's house and confronted him. Asked if he ever abused boys, Barbosa said he could only answer such a question "in confession" and cut off the interview.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Google abuzz with privacy concerns

Officials from Germany, Canada, France and seven other countries are raising privacy concerns to Google over the online search leader's fumbled foray into social networking along with other matters.

Google launched Google Buzz as part of its Gmail service in February. It quickly came under fire for automatically creating public circles of friends for users, based on their most frequent Gmail contacts. After complaints, the company apologized and made changes to the service.

But in the letter sent Monday to Google CEO Eric Schmidt, the officials said they are still "extremely concerned about how a product with such significant privacy issues was launched in the first place."

Canadian Privacy Commissioner Jennifer Stoddart, who is among those who signed the letter, said corporations like Google pay lip service to privacy, but it's not always reflected in the launch of new products.

Google Street View is another area of concern, with officials saying the company launched the mapping service — which includes street-level photos taken by cameras mounted on cars sweeping through neighbourhoods — without "due consideration of privacy and data protection laws and cultural norms."

"In that instance, you addressed privacy concerns related to such matters as the retention of unblurred facial images only after the fact, and there is continued concern about the adequacy of the information you provide before the images are captured," says the letter.

Stoddart, who is widely considered to be among those who have led the charge against perceived privacy shortfalls on the Internet, has posted the letter on the privacy commissioner's website at www.priv.gc.ca.

The other countries that signed the letter are Ireland, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain and the United Kingdom.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hackers stole Google program: Report

- The New York Times is reporting that computer hackers stole a program that controlled access to most of Google's services when they attacked the Internet company late last year. The Times story cited an unnamed person with direct knowledge of the investigation into the break-in that Google has traced to China.

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Comment

Obscured by clouds

TheWestView

Can you say Eyjafjallajökull? Never mind. It's hard enough just spelling it.

The aforementioned Icelandic tongue tickler doesn't have the same electrifying verbal impact as Krakatoa or Vesuvius, both of which sound appropriately volcanic.

Krakatoa Katie, she weren't no lady, but Eyjafjallajökull has wreaked global havoc just the same, thanks to tonnes of volcanic ash it has unleashed into the atmosphere, shutting down flights over Europe. Turns out jet engines and grit don't go together.

In the last week, the cost of Eyjafjallajökull's eruption has been more than 9-11. The airline industry alone is losing $200 million per day, never mind tourism, trade, financials and all of the industries that rely on intercontinental air travel to keep them going.

And as I write, that damn volcano is belching new clouds of ash into the atmosphere, releasing more carbon than the annual output of a mid-size European country like Sweden or Poland.

Remember when air travel was a glamorous adventure? Now, thanks to Eyjafjallajökull and al-Qaida, it's a black comedy set entirely in the "terminal," a word with chilling implications: If the volcano keeps going, as volcanoes do, it could shut down air travel for years.

"If the volcano keeps going, as volcanoes do, it could shut down air travel for years."

And what would that mean if we couldn't fly any more?

Civilization lapses back into the slow lane. Even the fastest train travels at less than half the speed of a commercial jet into a headwind.

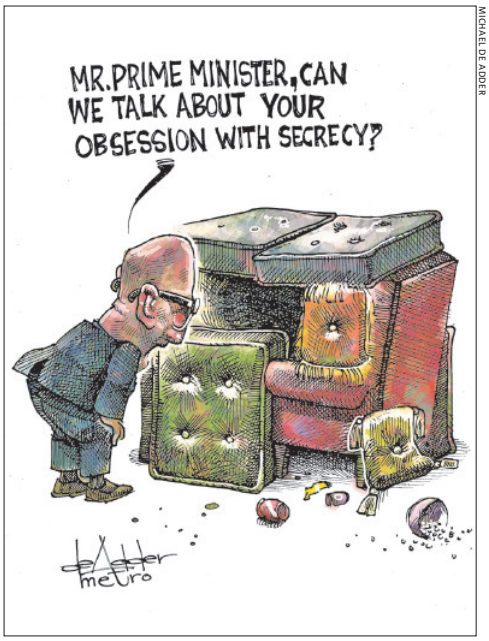
It's difficult to imagine. No more strawberries from South America in January. We'd have to gnaw on roots from the cellar during those long winter months. Eat local ... or starve.

Distances become meaningful again as we are forced to relax into road trips and slow boats to everywhere. Exotic locales become exotic again, and that includes Hawaii, Puerto Vallarta and Pismo Beach. We are forced, by necessity, to rediscover our own neighbourhoods and communities. All roads lead through Winnipeg, the Chicago of the North.

The recovery of the economy, which depends on the speed of sound for its bounce, lapses into a slow turnaround, and multinationals lose their prefixes. Web conferences turn convention centres and hotels into mausoleums. We plow them up into urban gardens and grow parsnips to supplement our meagre meals.

How likely is this nightmare scenario? Not very. (Which is almost too bad: It has a dreamy dimension that's hard to deny.) At some point, the human enterprise will rise to the challenge and build a volcano-proof jet. But the lesson is clear: Don't discount Mother Nature just yet. She's full of hard-to-spell surprises.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Word on the street: What are you doing to mark Earth Day tomorrow?

Nicolette Colosimo
Vancouver
A: I'm going to Powell River for Earth Fest. I'm going there to be a hippie and dance.

Sybor Wong
Vancouver
A: I'll be taking the bus. I usually don't switch the heat on and I'll turn off all my lights.

Dayna Mahannah
Vancouver
A: I'll cycle to work. I try to recycle and not litter throughout the year.

Brian Hoang
Ottawa
A: Now that I know about it, I'll probably plant a tree.

Kristen Kapty
Edmonton
A: I am going to take public transportation and maybe go outside if it's nice. I think it's important to try to save fuel on Earth Day.

Ernie Stuart
Halifax
A: I plan on going out and doing the basic things like not using power. I'm going to clean my house and do all my recycling that day.

Worth mentioning

Bang goes the theory for online brain games

People playing computer games to train their brains might as well be playing Super Mario, new research suggests.

In a six-week study, experts found people who played online games designed to improve their cognitive skills didn't get any smarter.

Researchers recruited participants from viewers of the BBC's science show Bang Goes The Theory. More than 8,600 people aged 18 to 60 were asked to play online brain games designed by the researchers to improve their memory, reasoning and other skills for at least 10 minutes per day, three times per week.

They were compared to more than 2,700 people who didn't play any brain games, but spent a similar amount of time surfing the Internet and answering general knowledge questions. All participants were given a sort of IQ test before and after the experiment.

Researchers said the people who did the brain training didn't do any better on the test after six weeks than people who had simply been on the Internet.

The study was paid for by the BBC and published online yesterday by the journal Nature.

"If you're (playing these games) because they're fun, that's absolutely fine," said Adrian Owen, assistant director of the Cognition and Brain Sciences unit at Britain's Medical Research Council, the study's lead author. "But if you're expecting (these games) to improve your IQ, our data suggests this isn't the case," he said during a press briefing yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cognitive skills

- Computer games available online and marketed by companies like Nintendo that supposedly enhance memory, reasoning and other cognitive skills are played by millions of people worldwide, though few studies have examined if the games work.

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Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Economy hurting sales of Harleys

Harley-Davidson Inc. said yesterday its first-quarter profit fell 72 per cent as sales of its high-end motorcycles remained sluggish. CEO Keith Wandell said the uncertain economy is likely to make business conditions challenging this year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Loonie gets boost

Jump comes as BoC hints at higher interest rates

The loonie posted its biggest single-day gain in nine months yesterday following a bullish economic forecast from Canada's central bank.

The Canadian dollar was up 1.58 cents at 100.12 cents US after the Bank of Canada signalled it may raise rates very soon — a move that would likely increase international demand for Canadian bonds and dollars. Earlier, the loonie had gained as much as 1.76 cents to 100.30 cents US.

The central bank projected that Canada's economy will grow a faster-than-expected 3.7 per cent this year, and inflation will also move higher. In its last forecast in January, the bank said the economy would grow 2.9 per cent in 2010.

1.58 The Canadian dollar jumped 1.58 cents US yesterday, thanks in part to the Bank of Canada signalling it may raise interest rates.

Because of the strong economic outlook, the Bank of Canada said it was withdrawing its conditional commitment to keep the key lending rate at its current record low of 0.25 per cent until the end of June. That sets the stage for a quarter-point or even a half-point hike on June 1.

The Canadian dollar will remain strong as long as investors expect the bank to raise rates and tighten the money supply. But a high loonie could, in turn, force the bank to cut rates again later in the year, said Danielle Park of Venable Park Investment Counsel.

"They started to hike (rates) in '02 and then had to backtrack because they realized the economy was not recovering as strongly as they'd hoped," Park said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Argentina 'No to the paper mill'

NATACHA PISARENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The International Criminal Court ruled yesterday that Uruguay did not breach its obligation to protect the environment by building a pulp mill on its side of a river that forms its border with Argentina. Protesters opposed to the Finnish-built mill had gathered in Argentina to listen to the court's decision.

Florida It's a tough job...

LYNNE SLADKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The job of tanning butler at the Ritz Carlton hotel in Miami Beach, Fla., pays $20 an hour and involves offering free sun care products to guests at the pool and beach for four hours daily.

Alberta feeling heat over policy on wetlands

ENVIRONMENT Conservation groups say Alberta is backing away from a proposal to force energy companies to restore environmentally important wetlands ruined by oilsands projects.

The Sierra Club of Canada says a leaked draft of the government's plan doesn't include a "no-net-loss" wetlands policy recommended by the Alberta Water Council.

The Alberta Chamber of Resources and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers have lobbied against the "no-net-loss" policy, arguing that it would be too expensive.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Global banks could save billions: IMF

RECOVERY The world's banks could be spared billions in losses thanks to a global economy that is recovering from the financial meltdown more quickly than initially expected.

The International Monetary Fund is forecasting that global bank losses from the financial crisis will total $2.28 trillion US, a drop of $533 billion from an estimate made last October. The IMF said yesterday that its forecast for losses just for U.S. banks had dropped to $885 billion, down from an estimate of $1.03 trillion made in October. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business in brief

APPLE Blockbuster iPhone sales helped Apple Inc. blow past Wall Street's expectations with a 90 per cent leap in net income for the most recent quarter. Shares skyrocketed in extended trading yesterday. Apple said it sold nearly nine million of its popular iPhone smart phones in the three months that ended March 27, more than double sales from a year ago. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINING Shares of Northern Energy and Mining Inc., also known as NEMI, got a boost yesterday after its partner in Peace River Coal announced plans to sell the B.C. project. The Vancouver company's stock (TSX:NNE) jumped six cents or nearly nine per cent to 74 cents after it and Anglo American PLC, the project's majority owner, announced plans to sell the project.

TELECOM Chinese telecom equipment maker Huawei — once considered a key competitor to Nortel Networks — opened a new research and development centre in Ottawa yesterday. The operations will employ about 70 people.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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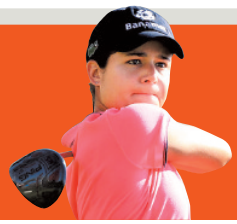
Yaohan Centre
Lansdowne Centre (near Best Buy)
Aberdeen Centre
Surrey
Surrey Central Shopping Centre

Reds pitcher suspended 50 games

Former all-star pitcher Edinson Volquez of the Cincinnati Reds was suspended 50 games yesterday following a positive test for a performance-enhancing drug. Volquez said in a statement he received a prescription in the Dominican Republic as part of treatment to start a family with his wife. He said the drug was banned by Major League Baseball. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports



Ochoa announces retirement

Lorena Ochoa, left, became the second LPGA Tour star in three years to step away from golf when she announced her retirement yesterday, following Annika Sorenstam in 2008. The 28-year-old Mexican published a statement on her website and will discuss her plans at a Friday news conference. Ochoa had more than $14.8 million US in career LPGA earnings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Worry, but don't panic

TheHockeyNews

Rory Boylen
rboylen@thehockeynews.com

It's officially time to start worrying in Vancouver. Not time to panic, mind you, just worry.

It's always troublesome when your starting goaltender gets yanked in a playoff game and even more so when Andrew Raycroft is the replacement.

Let's get one thing straight: It isn't completely surprising Roberto Luongo was removed from the net in Game 3 by coach Alain Vigneault. It was the eighth time this season the captain was taken out prematurely and these lackluster games have often followed strong efforts, like the one we saw in a Game 2 loss.

If anything promising can be taken from this sudden — yet in some ways expected — turn of events, it's that Luongo's record the game after being pulled this season is 6-1, although not all of those outings were special.

Of course, this isn't entirely the goalie's fault, either. The goals that were scored in Game 2 were tough passes across and the result of missed defensive assignments. In Game 3, there were serious mental lapses in the defensive zone, causing two goals off quick and unnecessary turnovers. When your goalie is your captain and you've committed 12 years to him you'd hope he'd steal these games, but at the same time you can't expect it if you leave him out to dry.

There's been a lot of irritated chatter about keeping the up-and-down Luongo out, but that's just silly talk. Luongo is a talent you ride the storm with and let him play out the slump. The Canucks are only three games into the playoffs and only one game down, so to cry out that the season is over or the goalie is overrated at this point is like jumping ship before it's even left the port.

Sure it's time to worry. How can you not worry when your team trails in the first round as a favourite coming off a record season?

But the team proved this year it is full of talent, skill and headline players and those are the type that can mount comebacks and overcome adversity.

Stick by the Canucks and Luongo until the bitter end. Otherwise, you run the risk of being a fair-weather fan – and there's nothing wrong with a little rain every now and again to make the gleam of a golden sunlight feel warmer.

The Hockey News
thn.com

Sports in brief

BASEBALL Colorado Rockies president Keli McGregor has died in a hotel room in Salt Lake City, police said yesterday. Detective Rick Wall said two of McGregor's associates couldn't get in touch with him and that someone entered his room at The Grand America Hotel in downtown Salt Lake City and found the 48-year-old McGregor unconscious yesterday morning.

BASEBALL Major League Baseball has dropped its five-game suspension of Seattle Mariners pitcher Cliff Lee. The team said yesterday that MLB vice-president of administration John McHale made the decision after Lee's appeal hearing last week.

NBA Dwight Howard has won his second straight NBA defensive player of the year award after becoming the only player to lead the league in blocks and rebounds in the same season twice — let alone in consecutive years.

NFL The Buffalo Bills will host the Chicago Bears in a regular-season game in Toronto this November, the NFL team announced yesterday. The Bills and Bears will square off Nov. 7 at the Rogers Centre. It will be the fifth game of Buffalo's eight-game series in Toronto through the 2012 season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Detroit 3 Phoenix 0
Pittsburgh 7 Ottawa 4
Philadelphia 4 New Jersey 1
Nashville 4 Chicago 1
San Jose 2 Colorado 1 (OT)

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Atlanta 96 Milwaukee 86
Boston 106 Miami 77
Oklahoma City 92 L.A. Lakers 95
Phoenix 119 Portland 90

BASEBALL

YESTERDAY'S AL RESULTS

Toronto 4 Kansas City 3
Boston 7 Texas 6
Minnesota 5 Cleveland 1
Chicago White Sox 4 Tampa Bay 1
L.A. Angels 6 Detroit 5
N.Y. Yankees at Oakland
Seattle 3 Baltimore 1

YESTERDAY'S NL RESULTS

Colorado 10 Washington 4
Milwaukee 8 Pittsburgh 1
N.Y. Mets 4 Chicago Cubs 0
Cincinnati 11 L.A. Dodgers 9
Atlanta 4 Philadelphia 3
Houston 7 Florida 5
Arizona 9 St. Louis 7
San Diego 1 San Francisco 0

Canucks need a new captain, Cherry says

TELEVISION Don Cherry says it's time for a new captain in Vancouver.

The popular hockey commentator criticized the Vancouver Canucks' use of goaltender Roberto Luongo as team captain on yesterday's edition of CBC's Coach's Corner.

He called the decision a "dumb move" and said goalies already have enough pressure on them without having to deal with leading a team.

Don Cherry

"I know next year, he should ask not to be the captain," Cherry said.

Cherry said Luongo's captaincy wasn't necessarily the reason the Canucks are down 2-1 to the Los Angeles Kings, but he pointed out that benching the captain could have a demoralizing effect on the rest of the team.

"You see your best guy pulled and your captain sitting," Cherry said. "You think that isn't (depressing)?"

Cherry also said that the importance of the 'C' has diminished since players stopped voting for their captains. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Denver Sharks take a bite out of Avalanche

DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colorado Avalanche centre Stephane Yelle and San Jose Sharks left-winger Jamie McGinn try to control the puck in Game 4 of the teams' Western Conference first-round playoff series last night in Denver. The Sharks won 2-1 in overtime to tie the series at two games apiece.

Kesler, Datsyuk, Staal up for Selke Trophy

AWARD Pavel Datsyuk will be looking for a third straight Selke Trophy at the NHL awards in June.

The Detroit Red Wings star was nominated for the league's top defensive forward yesterday, joining Ryan Kesler of the Vancouver Canucks and Jordan Staal of the Pittsburgh Penguins. Voting was conducted by members of the Professional Hockey Writers' Association.

Datsyuk won the Selke the last two seasons and beat out Kesler last year.

The 31-year-old led the NHL in takeaways with 132 — 49 more than second-place Kesler. Datsyuk also finished with a plus-17 rating and had a 55 per cent success rate on faceoffs.

Kesler averaged a career-high 19:37 in ice time for the Canucks and was an integral part of the team's penalty kill. He was also 55 per cent on faceoffs.

The 21-year-old Staal received his first Selke nomination after playing more short-handed minutes than any NHL forward other than Jay McClement of St. Louis. Staal led the Penguins with a plus-19 rating.

The NHL's award show will be held June 23 in Las Vegas. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Manitoba school to get new mining technology

A consortium of industry and public-sector partners will soon unveil plans for a state-of-the-art mining academy in Flin Flon, Man.. Sources say the Northern Manitoba Mining Academy may include the latest technology in automated underground mining equipment simulators previously unavailable in the province. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Grad time tied to resources

A new study from the U.S.-based National Bureau of Economic Research suggests that the increase in the length of time needed to complete a baccalaureate degree in recent decades is concentrated among students who enrol at less competitive 4-year institutions and at community colleges. Results suggest that declines in collegiate resources in the less-selective public sector increased degree-completion time. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

To earn now or learn for later?

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Halifax

The last few years have seen a decline in employment among young Canadians almost matched by a rise in enrolment in graduate school, according to Statistics Canada figures.

The number of grad students rose by five percentage points in the 2007/2008 academic year and the employment rate among Canadians aged 15 to 24 declined by 8.7 percentage points between 2008 and 2009. David Ablett, a financial planner with Investors Group in Winnipeg, says people should weigh the investment required for upgrading education against the likely benefits.

"Grad school can offer career opportunity, personal growth, fulfillment and achievement. It can also leave you in considerable debt," says Ablett. "When weighing the options, it's best to understand the ways you'll finance your decision."

He cites Stats Can figures for 2005 saying the average income for a person with a bachelors degree was $58,767. For a grad degree, that rose 18 per cent to $69,230. Over a 30-year working period, that would equal an earnings boost of about $313,890.

An MBA costs about $50,000 on average and an EMBA (executive MBA) about $90,000. If a student had to borrow the entire cost, a debt of $50,000 would take 15 years of $400-a-month payments at five per cent interest to clear. Further education also takes you out of the workforce for a number of years, costing several years' salary.

"Investing in education can be lucrative, but it is a big financial commitment and the decision needs to be weighed along with other life goals like owning a home, providing for a family and your retirement," Ablett says.

Would-be students in the workforce have advantages, he adds. They might have enough in savings to pay for all or part of their educational upgrade, including money drawn from RRSPs via tax-free withdrawals with the life-long learning program.

FLICKR: RKLEINE

University graduates have a tough decision whether to get a job and earn income or aim for a post-grad program.

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Carleton Orientation Week cancelled?
In a statement released yesterday, the Carleton University Students' Association reports that it and the Rideau River Residence Association received notice last week that Carleton has cancelled the CUSA/RRRA Orientation Week. The university announced yesterday new elements to Orientation week. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tribunals cause for employers concern

WorkplaceLaw

HENRY STANCU/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES
Jessica Maciel and her son, 10-month-old Anthony.

Canadian employers have historically taken an ignorant view of human rights tribunals and their often extraordinary decisions. But that may be quickly changing. Because of sweeping changes to human rights legislation and left-leaning adjudicators directed to interpret remedial legislation, such as human rights laws, in a broad and inclusive manner, employers should be very concerned. Here are some of the reasons why.

Broadcasting cases: when Jessica Maciel was fired from a hair salon after disclosing she was pregnant, the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal found her termination was due to her pregnancy. She was awarded $35,000 for lost wages, benefits and "punitive" damages.

The decision, while not novel, should give employers pause for two reasons. First, the Human Rights Legal Support Centre, a government-sponsored program that argues cases of discrimination on behalf of employees, sent out a mass press release broadcasting the decision. Employers rarely had to concern themselves with negative public scrutiny arising from seeing their names widely broadcast on the wrong side of a press release — until now.

Second, the broad panoply of potential damage awards for human rights violations considerably increases the scope and unpredictability of human rights litigation before provincial tribunals. Despite having worked for only one day, Maciel was awarded damages with little or no relationship to her actual losses.

Cost awards: In civil court cases, the losing party pays a component of the winner's legal costs and cases cannot be summarily withdrawn without paying costs to the other side. Both rules deter frivolous or vexatious lawsuits from proceeding. But this is not so in the human rights regime, where employers must generally pay their own legal costs, no matter what the outcome. Employers are forced to settle many unmeritorious cases simply to avoid escalating legal fees.

Assumed jurisdiction: The most ridiculous aspect of Canadian human rights laws is that the tribunals often assume their jurisdiction to hear quasi-discriminatory matters before a hearing to determine whether that jurisdiction even exists. In B.C., the Tribunal is currently hearing the case of Lorna Pardy, a lesbian who accused a comedian of discriminating against her at a nightclub, before a hearing takes place establishing the Tribunal's jurisdiction. It appears the Tribunal has it backwards.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer with Whitten & Lublin LLP. Reach him at dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

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Lindsay Plake - University of Southern California, U.S.A

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Yoon Young Lee - Deakin University, Australia

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4. Application Deadline: June 10, 2010

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MyFord Touch coming
Ford has announced its new MyFord Touch technology will launch this summer on the 2011 Ford Edge and be available globally on the 2012 Focus. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Metro Drive

Fresh air on wheels

A Chinese car is turning the laws of physics over its head. The Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp. has come up with the Ye Zi concept that runs on renewable energy and somehow emits oxygen, making it the world's first "carbon negative" car. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Compact Versa shows class

Nissan's entry-level car generous in quality

MARK ATKINSON
for Metro Canada

When it came to entry-level cars, there used to be only a couple that were really worth the money.

The rest were playing off either their low price or buyers' ignorance about just how nice a car you can get for very little money.

In 2010, that ratio has virtually flipped, with an increasing number of hits and much fewer misses. And it seems like nearly every week there's some other company trying to break in.

Nissan has generally been on the "inside" with its small offerings, but this is especially true with its entry-level Versa.

Although it hasn't changed much in the three years since its launch, it remains an impressive lesson in packaging.

Somehow, Nissan managed to carve out a relatively grand interior from a modestly sized body. The design is hit-or-miss, though. The five-door hatch is pert, if not pretty, but the four-door sedan is awkward and best forgotten.

While there is a four-door door-crasher special with a less powerful 1.6-litre four-cylinder engine, starting with the hatchback improves things considerably.

Using a 122-hp 1.8-litre engine, the Versa is not a rocket, but using the six-speed manual transmission means it's easy to control.

The optional continuously variable transmission (CVT) isn't horrible if you can't or won't drive a stick. Fuel mileage is good given its competition at 7.9/6.3 L/100 km (city/hwy), so you'll stretch out your dollar between fill-ups.

Get behind the wheel, and you're presented with a simple, modern cabin with easy-to-reach controls and legible instruments. You always feel perched in the driver's seat, the better to maximize interior space.

Rear-seat passengers aren't ignored either, with generous leg room. Cargo space is limited, but there's room for groceries or other sundries.

Get out on the road, and the little Nissan's manners are comfortable, but not especially sporty. It doesn't flop like a fish, but it's no corner carver.

Acceleration is acceptable, and good gearing means it doesn't inspire panic during passing manoeuvres. The brakes are capable but wouldn't be up for track work...

The best part is that Versa starts at a very reasonable $14,198 although if you bring straight cash, you can get into a no-option sedan for four figures.

2010 Nissan Versa

Type: Compact sedan/hatchback
Price: from $14,918
Engine: 1.6L/1.8L
Fuel Economy: 7.9/6.3L/100km (city/hwy)

Highlights

- Modern interiors
- Generous leg room for back-seat passengers
- Affordable price
- Capable handling

Learning how to EcoDrive

TIPS By changing your driving habits, even a little, you could save hundreds of dollars a year in fuel and help reduce your carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions. The way to do this is to start EcoDriving, a safe way of driving that produces the lowest fuel consumption from every vehicle. Here are some tips to get you started:

- Accelerate gently: Every time you put your foot on the gas pedal, you feed fuel to your engine — the harder you apply the gas, the more fuel your engine uses and the more emissions your car produces;
- Maintain a steady speed and stick to the speed limit: It's tempting to speed on the highway but by reducing your speed from 120 km/hour to 100 km/hour you can lower your fuel consumption by about 20 per cent;
- Anticipate traffic flow: Try to gauge the flow of traffic and keep a buffer zone between you and the drivers in front of you and drive at a consistent speed as speed fluctuations use more fuel;
- Coast to decelerate: Coasting to a stop is like getting a free ride. When you notice that traffic ahead is slowing or stopped, remove your foot from the accelerator as soon as possible and coast to a stop.

NEWS CANADA

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10:11 a.m.: your boss gives you a raise.

TD Canada Trust

All ears for social media

J.D. Power has launched a new data platform, the Auto Intelligence Monitor, which "listens" to unprompted consumer conversations in social media and allows automakers to assess new-vehicle launches, brand images and marketing strategies in new ways. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Head-scratchers and showstoppers

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz

metronews.ca/autopilot

The auto show "season" is more or less over. It starts every fall, in either Paris or Frankfurt, and winds up in April in New York.

In the intervening months we see major auto shows in places like Tokyo, Shanghai, Detroit, Montreal, Chicago, Toronto, Geneva, Vancouver, and this year even Flin Flon — though that was probably an accident and not likely to be repeated.

So let's take stock of some of the finer and/or more interesting debuts we saw this season, because they could represent significant trends moving forward, and it's never a bad idea to contemplate bright, shiny objects.

Personal Transport Re-Think

Of the "envelope pushers" concepts brought to light this year, my faves were the Volkswagen L1 and Nissan Land Glider. Both position the passenger directly behind the driver, like on a motorcycle. The L1 is so named because its diesel-electric powertrain only needs 1 L of fuel to travel 100 kms. It looks like a big cigar, or worse.

The Nissan Glider is an EV, but its most cunning attribute is that it can lean like a motorcycle (up to 17 degrees), which should make it a blast (or at least interesting) to drive.

Also of note in this category is the Honda 3R-C Concept, a fully enclosed single-seat, three-wheeled device running on battery power. It looks aggressively high-tech, I'm guessing, so maybe you don't feel so vulnerable in your smallness.

Future High performance

This is a really exciting category, as automakers are realizing that electric power can simultaneously boost power and lower emissions.

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

The auto show season gave us the envelope-pushing Nissan Land Glider, left, and the VW L1.

When you make stunning e-rides like the Audi e-Tron concepts, our conversion to electric propulsion will be done with little duress.

One of the genuine surprises at the recent Geneva show was another car in this vein — the Porsche 918 Spyder. This concept combines the 500-hp V8 from the RS prototype races with two electric motors, for an additional 218 horses. It can go 198 mph and get 78 mpg if you baby it.

Significant high volume

The 2012 Focus compact represents Ford's first truly global platform — versions will be literally made and sold in every corner of the planet. A slick wagon/minivan version called C-Max is particularly compelling. Aided by the equally new Fiesta, it should re-establish Ford as a small-vehicle powerhouse.

The new Buick Regal is equally global; it's currently produced in China where it's selling like hot cakes, and will soon be built in Canada.

It's based on platform that also underpins Open Insignia, Buick LaCrosse, and the upcoming Cadillac XTS. The Regal GS concept unveiled in Detroit, with all-wheel drive and a 255-hp 2.0-litre turbo, tells us that Buick is (finally) serious about attracting younger buyers.

Significant head-scratchers

At Detroit, sitting by itself, with no display material or fanfare was a Lancia Delta fitted with a Chrysler grille. Lancia is one of the brands owned by Chrysler's parent company, Fiat. Not only did it seem odd, but also no one at Chrysler seemed interested in conveying why it was there.

Equally upsetting was the Aston Martin Cygnet — a very small and cheap Toyota iQ dressed in Aston Martin finery.

The Cygnet would only be sold to current Aston Martin owners, presumably for them to drive on city errands and such, when piloting their regular Astons might be deemed overkill. Speaking of death, this column is done!

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

Porsche auto start stop cuts off car idling

JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada

The Auto Start-Stop is found in Porsche's latest version of the Panamera.

Unlike conventional cars, hybrid vehicles generally get better fuel efficiency in the city than on the highway. Part of the reason is idle-stop — the gasoline engine shuts off when the vehicle isn't moving.

Some non-hybrid European models do this, but now, Porsche has brought the technology to Canada with its new Auto Start-Stop, found on Panamera and on automatic-equipped Cayenne models.

"Over the life cycle of a car, you spend something like 27 per cent of your time idling," says Laurance Yap, manager of public relations for Porsche Cars Canada. "If you can just shut the engine off while you're not going anywhere, you can see a substantial fuel savings without the complexity of a hybrid powertrain."

Hybrids use the car's electric motor to restart the engine. Instead, Porsche uses a heavy-duty version of the regular gear-drive starter used on regular models. "It's a much beefier starter," Yap says. "It's substantially reinforced and much more robust than in a car that doesn't shut itself off all the time. It will last as long as a conventional starter would last in a car without this feature."

Unlike a hybrid, where the idle stop operates without any driver intervention, Porsche's Auto Start-Stop can be turned off via a button on the console if the driver chooses. When it's turned on, the car's sensors determine if and when to shut off the engine.

In order for it to operate, the shift lever must be in Drive, the engine must be within its normal operating temperature, and the car must be completely stopped with the driver's foot on the brake. The engine stays on if the car is in Sport or Sport Plus mode, if it's on a steep incline, or if the wheels are angled, which might indicate that the driver intends to make a quick turn.

"If you can just shut the engine off while you're not going anywhere, you can see a substantial fuel savings without the complexity of a hybrid powertrain."
Porsche's Laurance Yap

Although the engine is no longer running, everything else continues to operate, including the lights, heat or air conditioning, stereo, safety systems, and all electronics.

There's no time limit to how long the engine stays off, but the car constantly monitors the battery's charge, and if it drops below a certain point, the engine starts up again to charge it.

"There's a ten-per-cent reduction in fuel consumption, and a five per cent reduction of CO2 emissions over the life of the vehicle," Yap says.

"It's another expression of the Porsche ethos of building the most efficient model possible, regardless of the segment."

Sportage Kia's modern CUV

NEW MODEL The completely redesigned 2011 Sportage offers a more urban and fluid silhouette than its predecessor while retaining the functional features and benefits of the popular CUV.

The 2011 Sportage also offers increased levels of performance and efficiency, comfort and convenience and the latest in-vehicle technologies.

The Sportage comes standard with a 2.4-litre DOHC 16-value four-cylinder engine with Continuously Variable Value Timing, offering more power and better fuel economy than the previous 2.7-litre V6 engine.

FROM CARGUIDE

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It's important to know the correct ways to install a child seat and properly secure your kids.

The right way to use child seats

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
for Metro Canada

You may see confused friends trying to select or install a child seating their vehicle to prepare for a new baby. Lots of questions typically present themselves. Where does the seat face? How is it attached? What kind do I need? When will I need to move up in seat size?

Listen up, mom and dad. The Ministry of Transportation says that up to 80 per cent of child-seats aren't installed correctly. That's a nasty statistic given that properly-installed child seats can reduce the risk of serious injury or death by over 70 per cent.

For infants, proper seating is in a rear-facing child-seat, away from an airbag, until they weigh in at over 20 lbs.

Ministry officials say that the seat should rest at a 45 degree angle between vertical and seatback, and have no more than an inch of movement in any direction at the base. Parents need to ensure that straps are clipped in properly, and that there's no more than a fingers worth of slack in said straps at baby's collarbone. The chest clip should be flat across the baby's chest at armpit level, too.

"The Ministry of Transportation says that up to 80 per cent of child-seats aren't installed correctly."

Once your baby passes 20 pounds in weight, they can ride a forward-facing child seat — which may be attached by a seatbelt or a tether-strap and anchor system called LATCH. The abbreviation stands for Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children.

LATCH includes various mounting points that help owners attach a seat without having to use the vehicles' actual grown-up seatbelts. You'll need to check your car and your child seat to ensure that they're LATCH compatible — but most made after 2002 are.

Remember, LATCH is an option intended to make mounting easier. If your vehicle doesn't have it, you can still install a child seat safely using the standard seatbelt. If your car is an older model, it may be possible to have a LATCH-style tether anchor retrofitted. Your dealership has more information.

Should little Stewie outgrow a forward-facing child seat prematurely, he'll require a booster seat. Only once he turns 8, weighs more than 80 pounds or stands taller than 4'9" is he ready for normal seating like the big kids. College is right around the corner.

Once the transition to the big-boy seats are made, the child should sit comfortably against the seatback with legs bent off the edge. The seatbelt needs to cross the shoulder and middle of the child's chest, and the lap-belt needs to cross the hips, not the stomach.

Check your new car seat for a CMVSS (Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards) certification sticker and be sure that it comes with proper instructions and all hardware necessary for proper installation.

2011 Mazda2 pricing announced

NEW MODEL The all-new 2011 Mazda2 will arrive in Canadian showrooms early this summer with a starting manufacturer's suggested retail price of $13,995.

Completely designed and engineered by Mazda in Japan, where the car will be produced, the 2011 Mazda2 five-door subcompact represents a new entry point into Mazda's lineup, fitting in under the popular Mazda3.

The 2011 Mazda2 will be offered in two trim grades: GX and GS.

Both trims are powered by Mazda's MZR 1.5-litre, four-cylinder 16-valve DOHC engine mated to a five-speed manual transmission, and come with an extensive list of standard safety features including an Anti-Lock Brake System and advanced dual front air bags. FROM CARGUIDE

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Formula One breakthroughs often trickle down to cars made for ordinary driving.

Born on race track

Many F1 technologies end up in regular cars

ADAM HAY-NICHOLLS
Metro World News

presented his business model in 1950, when his marque first entered Formula One with a car you could order in a showroom. The "commendatore" knew it made great marketing sense.

Now, of course, grand prix cars are nothing close to road legal, but some of the technology you take for granted on your family runaround was born on the race track.

ABS, turbo-chargers, traction control, composite materials, thin-walled castings, sensors technology and many other now-commonplace automotive staples were either invented or greatly refined in F1.

But that was a long time ago. These days F1 has more in common with the design of fighter jets in its use of composites, electro-hydraulic control systems and aerodynamic devices.

One of the more obvious F1-derived fads to hit the mainstream market is the semi-automatic paddle controlled gearbox, which debuted on the Ferrari 641 F1 car back in 1990. Toro Rosso F1 driver Jaime Alguersuari wasn't even born then.

More recently, Ferrari has been adding rotary switches to the steering wheel and removing all the indicator stalks, bringing the ergonomics of its 458 Italia much closer to that which Felipe Massa and Fernando Alonso call their office.

Formula One is developing Kinetic energy Recovery Systems (KERS), which were used in last year's championship by a handful of teams and could be set for a return in 2011. Energy generated through braking is used to boost the engine's horsepower. The Williams team has developed an innovative flywheel system, which will become available on Porsche's road-going GT3. The trouble is, you need to drive like Schumacher to the shops if it's going to work.

It's the areas of process and safety where F1 is now most road-relevant. The Euro NCAP standards were inspired by F1 structural and impact testing.

All the manufacturers involved in F1 have an exchange program that rotates engineers across different departments — some competition-based, others road-focused — and there can be synergy. The BMW 7-Series has onboard microprocessors which run the engine management system and memory technology in its internet and navigation systems, and these were first deployed and tested by BMW in F1.

Where the sport most impresses is in its rapid prototyping techniques. Of the car that begins the season in March, only 20 per cent of the design will remain when the season ends in November. The car will gain between two and three seconds over the season, often by thousandths-of-a-second increments. Essentially it is reinvented for every race.

Given manufacturers need to create lighter vehicles with ever-diminishing lead times, this sharing of experience and techniques carries a greater premium than the actual direct sharing of technology.

But, even if the modern crossover is limited, F1 can sex-up existing technology by taking it further. "There's quite a lot of consumers who don't think it's terribly sexy to drive around in a Toyota Prius," points out Williams co-owner Patrick Head.

"F1 can change that. Regardless of whether our actual system is relevant to road cars, if it makes the very idea of owning a hybrid car sexy, and people go out and buy a more efficient road car as a result, then having KERS in F1 won't have done any harm."

Evolution road

- **Carbon monocoque chassis:** The 1981 McLaren MP4/1 was revolutionary, with its stiff, lightweight carbon tub. It took 11 years for it to filter to the road, first with the McLaren F1 road car. The Ferrari F50 followed, which was the first road car to follow F1 and bond the rear suspension to the engine and gearbox.
- **Paddle shift gearboxes:** Ferrari's 1990 F1 car, driven by Nigel Mansell and Alain Prost, was the first to use a clutchless semi-auto 'box with flappy-paddle sensors. By 1995, all F1 cars had it. A road-going system first appeared in the Ferrari 355 in 1997.
- **Composite brakes:** F1 cars use carbon fibre composite disc brake discs, which save weight and operate at higher temperatures than steel discs. These materials are extremely expensive, but most high-end sports cars offer these at a 30,000 Euro premium. Ferrari has them standard across the range.

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Camaro awarded for design

The Chevrolet Camaro was awarded the World Car Design of the Year title at the recently concluded New York International Auto Show. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Maximum Zoom Zoom

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
for Metro Canada

MODEL: 2004 to 2007 Mazda 6
VEHICLE TYPE: Sedan or Wagon
APPROXIMATE USED PRICE RANGE: $6,500 to $17,000

HISTORY/DESCRIPTION: Capitalizing on a unique styling language, celebrated driving dynamics and a new "Zoom-Zoom" product ideology, the 2004 Mazda 6 hit the scene and quickly began changing the perception of how exciting a Japanese family sedan could be.

Shopped mainly for its fun-to-drive character, upscale looks and refined, modern interior, the 6 is a popular choice for driving enthusiasts after a sensible used family sedan.

Second Gear

Shoppers can look for a 6 with either a 2.3 litre, 160-horsepower four-cylinder engine or a 3-litre, 220 horsepower V6. Transmission choices for either engine included a five-speed manual or an automatic with between foour and six gears — depending on the year in question. Unlike most competitors, the 6 offered a stick-shift, even with its larger engine. Features included ABS brakes, power steering, power accessories and a tilting, telescopic steering wheel — depending on the model. Heated leather seating, side airbags, fog-lamps, heated mirrors, a CD changer and large alloy wheels could be fitted, too.

WHAT OWNERS LIKE: No surprises here. Owners tended to praise the 6's styling, sporty handling manners, upbeat cabin and fuel mileage with the four-cylinder engine. Mazda 6 wagon owners also like the lifestyle appeal of their machines when it comes to family trips or outdoor sports.

The 200407 Mazda 6 lineup changed people's perception of how exciting a Japanese family sedan could be.

WHAT OWNERS HATE: Complaints tend to centre around the 6's smaller-than-average cabin and a large turning radius. Some owners of four-cylinder models wish for more power, and some owners of V6-powered models wish for better mileage.

COMMON ISSUES: Pay extra attention to the automatic transmission on any 6 you're considering that's equipped with one. Any shuddering, hard shifting, slipping or other questionable sensations from the gearbox need to be identified and addressed before agreeing to purchase. Owner reports are somewhat inconclusive and sporadic, but any of the above may be prelude to expensive transmission component troubles.

Note that refilling the Mazda 6's six-speed automatic gearbox with improper fluid could cause damage.

Stick with a manual-transmission model where possible, and if in doubt, take the used 6 you're considering to a Mazda dealership for a pre-purchase inspection.

Be sure to check out the condition of the paint, noting any excessive rust on the trunk area below the license plate and around the wheel wells.

Check that the climate control system and power seat adjusters both work properly, too.

THE VERDICT: Stick with a manual transmission in your used 6 where possible, and get ready to join a community of happy owners with a sporty and stylish family ride.

Annual auto tune-up myth or fact?

MAINTENANCE It used to be one of the standard pieces of auto maintenance advice given to young drivers: a car needs to be taken in for a tune-up once every year.

As time has gone on however, vehicle technology has improved and standard maintenance schedules have changed, leaving many drivers uncertain about what exactly a tune-up now entails, and whether their car even needs one at all.

"The old rules no longer apply," said Megan Currie, Honeywell Consumer Products Group group marketing manager. "Some vehicles need a tune-up every two years or 48,000 kilometers, while some new vehicles can go as long as 161,000 kilometers before needing one. It's important to check your owner's manual for your vehicle's standard maintenance schedule and take it in for routine care."

When the term "tune-up" was first coined, it literally referred to the practice of tuning an engine's ignition timing. In modern vehicles, this is handled by computer, and the term is now used to refer to a single vehicle service that typically involves installing new spark plugs, fuel and air filters and ignition wires along with a quick test of the computer.

"Be sure that if you don't plan to do the job yourself, you take your vehicle to a qualified shop," Curry explains. "They'll be able to explain exactly what needs to be done."

Either way, it's smart to get educated on what type of plug you can have installed since not all spark plugs are created equal and many are made with different metal types. The most advanced spark plugs are made with iridium and platinum and feature what is called finewire technology.

These plugs are a fantastic choice since the finewire centrewire in a premium plug, like the Autolite XP Xtreme Performance plug, lowers the voltage required from the coil to make the spark jump.

NEWS CANADA

2011 TSX Sport Wagon stretches limits

NEW MODEL The all-new 2011 Acura TSX Sport Wagon offers a smart solution to modern utility needs with its balanced and efficient driving performance coupled with bold styling and versatile cargo capabilities.

The TSX Sport Wagon delivers flexible utility and generous interior space; perfect for those with a growing family or an active lifestyle.

The TSX Sport Wagon boasts an innovative and highly functional rear cargo space that includes a removable side panel to accommodate wider items such as golf clubs and integrated under-floor bins for hidden storage.

The 2011 Acura TSX Sport Wagon

Powering the TSX Sport Wagon is a 2.4-litre, all-aluminum DOHC i-VTEC, in-line four-cylinder engine paired with a Sequential SportShift 5-speed automatic transmission fit with steering wheel mounted paddle shifters.

FROM CARGUIDE

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Ram offering spray-on bedliner

The Ram Truck brand will now begin offering customers an optional spray-on bedliner for 2010 Ram 1500, 2500 and 3500 pickup trucks. The bedliner option will be available on all trim levels, cab sizes and bed lengths, and has a suggested retail price of $450. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Top down in Gran style

The 2010 Maserati Gran Turismo Convertible

PETER BLEAKNEY
for Metro Canada

Maserati adds a third model to its lineup for 2010, and yes, it's a looker. The Maserati GranTurismo Convertible (the automaker's first four seat convertible in its 96-year history) will be available in Canada this spring priced at $169,900 – that's about a $28,000 premium over the GranTurismo S Coupe, with which it shares most mechanicals.

Under hood is a Ferrari-derived 4.7L V8 that kicks out 433 ponies at 7200 r.p.m. and a torque peak of 361 lb.-ft. at 4750 r.p.m. It drives the rear wheels through a six-speed automatic transmission co-developed with German manufacturer ZF. Maserati's Skyhook adaptive suspension features continuously adjustable gas dampers with a sport setting.

2010 Maserati Gran Turismo

Type: Sports convertible
Price: $169,000
Engine: 4.7L V8
HP/Torque: 433 hp; 361 lb.-ft.

Highlights

- Adaptive suspension
- Maserati's first four-seat convertible
- Striking profile

There are two potential problems with taking one of the most beautiful cars on the road (grazie Pininfarina) and slicing off its roof: 1) you'll ruin its looks, and 2) you'll ruin its structural integrity.

Maserati has largely avoided both these pitfalls.

The three-layer fabric top (available in six colours) stays true to the lines of the coupe, and when it is folded, this Italian drop-top cuts an exceptionally striking profile.

The GT C has the longest wheelbase in its class and consequently a large area open to the sky, so much chassis stiffening was required — reinforced A-pillars, larger box sections in the sills, a torsion wall behind the rear seats and an aluminum under-body stiffener.

Over some of the more cobbled city streets of Rome there was some noticeable cowl shake, but overall this convertible felt very rigid. There is only a 100 kg weight penalty over the Coupe.

Maserati's mission with this car was to ensure maximum comfort for rear passengers. The rear buckets are contoured like the front chairs with a natural 22-degree rake.

At a smidge under six feet, I could sit behind myself — just. Those a little shorter will certainly be lodging no complaints, either with their beautifully trimmed accommodations or the 12-speaker Bose audio.

In recent years Maserati has arrived at a distinctive dynamic signature that melds robust free-revving V8s with a smooth and quick paddle-shifted six-speed ZF auto and tactile steering,

Pressing the Sport button on the console firms the Skyhook suspension, calls up a more aggressive transmission shift map, and allows the exhaust gasses to by-pass the mufflers above 3000 r.p.m.

With the road surface being quite damp on the mountainous portion of our drive, the leniency in the stability control allowed this inherently well-balanced drop-top to wag its tail in a very controllable fashion.

But what really impresses is the sound of that heroic 4.7L V8.

Unlike the Ferrari California, which spits and shrieks as only a Ferrari can, the mellifluous Maser (with the Sport button pressed, natch) first comes across as Enrico Caruso gargling with grappa, then escalates to the trumpet of a very pissed-off bull elephant.

We may have loosened some masonry in a few Roman tunnels that afternoon.

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Aston DB9 voted favourite Brit car

British drivers have voted the iconic Aston Martin DB9 their favourite car of the past 25 years. The poll was conducted by Direct Line Car Insurance to mark its 25th anniversary. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lithium-ion batteries lead charge

JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada

With all the attention paid to electric cars, you'd think they'd be common on the roads by now. The major holdup isn't the car, but the battery: It hasn't been easy to find the right combination of power, weight and cost.

Lithium-ion batteries are the best choice right now, says Tom Baloga, vice-president of engineering for BMW North America. The company uses lithium-ion units in its ActiveHybrid 7 sedan.

BMW is using lithium-ion batteries in its ActiveHybrid 7 sedan.

Driving Force

"We have seen them in consumer electronics, and lithium-ion is taking over from other types of batteries for power tools," Baloga says. "Even though they are expensive, lithium-ion is the choice for battery electric vehicles."

Less-expensive nickel metal hydride (NiMH) batteries are currently used in hybrid vehicles, including BMW's ActiveHybrid X6, but lithium-ion is expected to replace these bulkier, less-effective batteries. "The X6 was developed years ago, at a time when there was uncertainty about the safety of lithium-ion batteries," Baloga says. "Now there are several layers of redundancies in failsafe protection. The temperature of the battery is very closely monitored, and in the event of a short circuit, it shuts down the battery."

Baloga also says that concerns over the supply of lithium, a rare-earth element, are unfounded.

"The consensus is that there is about 30 million tonnes of lithium supply in the world," he says. "If you assume that each battery uses about four kilograms per vehicle, that is enough lithium right now for seven and a half billion all-electric cars. That's 150 years of car production for the whole world.

"Recycling is also a critical aspect of any kind of battery that we have. Lithium-ion batteries will be highly recycled and the lithium can be used in other batteries, and that will further reduce the strain on the supply."

Before they're recycled, though, the batteries will probably have a secondary life: when they're no longer capable of powering a car, they can be used for stationary storage. "Energy companies are interested in using them for managing the power output to balance the grid," Baloga says. "They've got a life even before they go to the recycler. This has to all work together to reduce the initial cost. It's expected in future that customers might lease batteries as opposed to buying them outright.

"There's a lot of research going into new batteries, but I'm not aware of anything that looks more promising than lithium right now."

"Recycling is also a critical aspect of any kind of battery that we have. Lithium-ion batteries will be highly recycled and the lithium can be used in other batteries."
BMW's Tom Baloga

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Das Auto.

Model shown with optional features. *Limited time financing offer available on approved credit through Volkswagen Finance. 0% APR financing pertains to finance terms up to 24 months only on 2005 to 2008 M.Y. Certified Pre-owned Jettas. Rates start at 2.9% for up to 60 months for other models. Financing example: $15,000 financed at 0% for 24 months, monthly payment is $625, cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $15,000.00. $15,000 financed at 2.9% for 60 months, monthly payment is $268.86, cost of borrowing is $1,131.86 for a total obligation of $16,131.86. Dealer may sell for less. Down payment may be required. PPSA, license, insurance, registration and applicable taxes are extra. Offer ends March 31, 2010. **$500 rebate for recent college or university graduates. Certain conditions apply. †2-year/40,000 km (whichever comes first) limited warranty. See dealers for additional details about this warranty. ††2-year, 24-hour roadside assistance provided by Sykes Assistance Services Corporation. Visit vw.ca or your Volkswagen dealer for details. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo and "Jetta" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. "Das Auto & Design" is a trademark of Volkswagen AG. "CarProof" is a registered trademark of 3823202 Canada Inc. o/a LienQuest.com. © 2010 Volkswagen Canada.

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Travel

Qatar Visa rules changing

Canadians visiting Qatar will no longer be able to get a tourist visa on arrival in the Middle East country as of May 1, says Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs. Qatar has introduced a rule requiring citizens of more than 30 countries — including Canada, the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Japan — to get a visa before going to the Persian Gulf emirate. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Step behind the walls of Cartagena

Metro finds the places to eat, stay and drink within Columbia's walled city

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

Colombia may have the reputation of a recovering addict, but the walled city of Cartagena is an explosive cocktail of colonial culture and pristine beaches.

Metro finds the places to eat, stay and drinks in Cartagena.

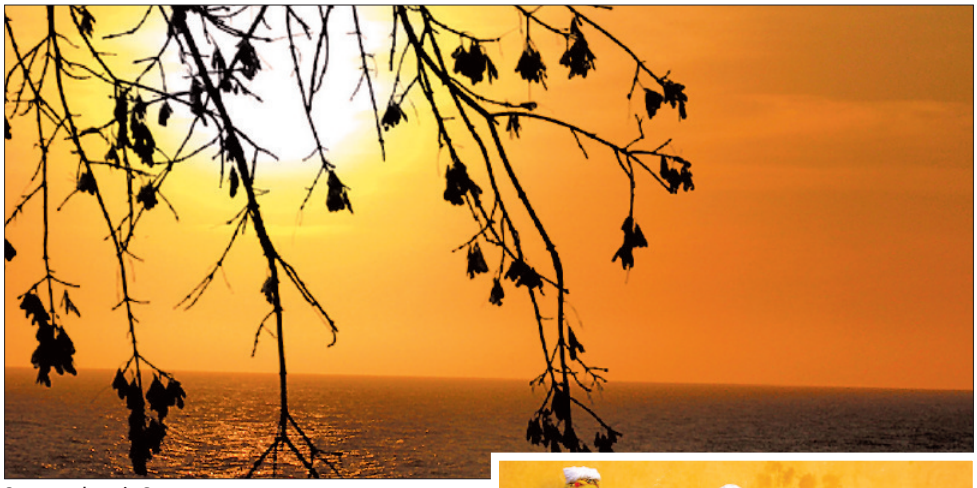
WHERE TO WAKE UP

The Charleston
hoteles-charleston.com

Start the day with a dip in the cool water of the outdoor swimming pool. Built on the rooftop, it allows you to get one of the most memorable views of the town.

The Charleston was built as a convent for the Carmelita nuns, then used as a jail and pasta factory. It's now one of the the most luxurious hotel within the walled city.

SPEND THE MORNING


METRO WORLD NEWS

Sunsets aplenty in Cartagena.

Shopping ...

The walls of coral, limestone and brick that surround the old town have protected its people for hundreds of years.

Take in the magical surrounding of eerie churches, crowded plazas and colonial mansions painted in eccentric hues of ochre and rose.

Pick up local crafts, painted wood masks and clay figurines from Plaza Santo Domingo or a "palenquera" (street vendor).

WHERE TO LUNCH

La Casa de Socorro
Calle Larga, No. 8B-112

Order a chilled Colombian beer as you kick back, relax and wait for your food to arrive.

The rustic interior is warm and welcoming and food wise — from crab claws with fragrant coconut rice over to shrimp or tangy fried plantains — you won't leave hungry.

SPEND THE AFTERNOON

Dreaming and diving ...
rosarioislands.com

Colourful characters and fruits can be found beyond the walls of Cartagena.

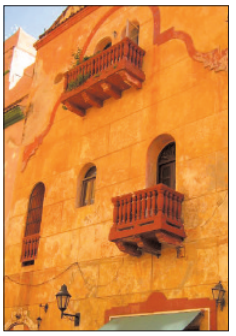
Islas del Rosario, an archipelago of 27 sleepy islands offers the simple pleasures of sand, coral reefs and crystal clear waters to offer — and very little else. It's a beach-lover's paradise.Spend the afternoon diving, snorkeling or sprawled out in the sunshine. Despite Cartagena city's energy it's blissfully peaceful.

WHERE TO HAVE DINNER

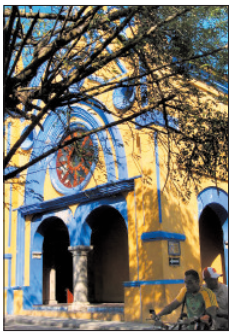
La Vitrola
Centro Cll 33 #2-01

A stone's throw away from the former home of surrealist author Gabriel García Márquez (Love in the Time of Cholera) La Vitrola, (Calle Baloco), mixes Cuban chic with old school charm.

Try the "ropa vieja" (avocado, plantain, shredded beef and beans) and there should always be a bottle of aniseed liquor behind the counter — a great way to get in the mood for dancing.



Colonial architecture is everywhere in Cartagena.



Bright colours illuminate this community.

HOW TO SPEND THE NIGHT

Café del Mar
cafedelmarcolombia.com

Sip on a Piña Colada as you watch the sunset perched on one of the stool's of the Café del Mar.

Music flows through the veins of the Cartageneros and almost all main squares come alive at night.

Donde Fidel (Plaza de Loc Coches) is one of the best salsa clubs in town.

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METRO WORLD NEWS

Set on a 100 acre lot, this archeological experiment is full of lush landscapes.

Stepping back in time

Denmark village gives a taste of Iron Age

PAUL BALDWIN
Metro World News

It sounds like a vacation designed by kids — playing outside in the sun, with random farmyard animals to torment, swimming in lakes, sleeping under the stars and absolutely no baths.

For a week.

Which is weird because this is the Iron Age Village at Lejre, in Denmark — an experimental archaeology centre set in 100 breathtakingly beautiful acres.

It's basically the Stone Age, Iron Age, or Viking era here and you're thrown into it with a pretty much sink or swim attitude.

Lejre is a living museum and for a week you are expected to wear the clothes, do the work and live the lifestyle of our 2000-year-old ancestors — often to the bemusement of other visiting Danish tourists.

But don't get bent out of shape, failing is part of the fun.

And, after the initial culture shock, the whole experience makes your modern family entertainment options seem impossibly tame in comparison.

You will share your time with about 25 others as you walk on bare earth, sleep on sheepskins and bathe in the lake.

Your toilet?

It will be a hole in the ground — try not to make a mess.

You will sleep on sheepskin rugs and under the open skies.

You will work four or five hours a day forging iron, weaving rope, grinding flour, fetching water — whatever needs doing to make the village run you will be doing it.

Hard labour may not seem like much fun but as you lose your self in the era you will begin to love that too.

Because this is not just another whacky camping trip but both a valuable experiment and a real conduit to another era — one with no TV, no media, and no deadlines other than sunrise and sunset.

And its amazing how connected you soon feel to our ancestors and how much smarter they suddenly seem to be as you struggle.You'll enjoy it so much you'll never want to return to the 20th century.

Bond faces cash problem
The next James Bond sequel, tentatively titled Bond 23, has been put on hold due to MGM's financial troubles, according to Variety. Producers say the next Daniel Craig 007 instalment is facing a foe as nasty as Dr. No or Scaramanga: Cash woes. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Entertainment

MTV host
Park and Recreation's Aziz Ansari will host the 2010 MTV Movie Awards. "I'm so happy Ronnie from Jersey Shore was unavailable and this exciting opportunity was able to come my way," Ansari said. TVGUIDE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Oceans come to life

Oceans is an extraordinary technical achievement for Disney.

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Four years in the making with an unprecedented scale of production, Disney's latest nature feature Oceans is an extraordinary technical achievement.

Audiences are treated to remarkable images of undersea life that have never been seen before because the technology and resources to capture the footage didn't exist.

When the movie opens on Earth Day, cinema screens will be filled with stunning high-definition images of blue whales, dolphins, sharks, and other oceanic favourites in a scope that will demand jaws to drop.

It's a cinematic experience that has never quite been delivered before, just ask Rob Stewart a longtime Canadian underwater photographer and director of the Oscar-nominated documentary Sharkwater.

"I honestly felt a little divided between jealousy and excitement about what was achieved," Stewart told Metro. "They lived our (dream): To be able to spend as much time underwater as you want with the best camera technology in every ocean on the planet to delivery the majesty of this world to the public in a new way."

Oceans opens in theatres tomorrow

Stewart was able to spend time on the set of Oceans and admits to being blown away by the scale of the production that co-directors Jacques Perrin and Jacques Cluzaud (Winged Migration) had assembled. Stewart describes the filming process as being "radically different" from anything he'd seen before.

"The way I made a movie was with one camera, two assistants and me. They had between 20 and 30 people on set with joystick cameras, remote control vehicles, and robots with cameras built into them. They basically took the best of the technology from the surface and make it available underwater" revealed the director.

"It was a totally different way of shooting and that's why they got these images that are perfect, crisp, and beautiful."

Oceans might expand the possibilities of what can be done in this medium in the future, but it's not simply a technical exercise. The movie also sends a strong message about the importance of conservation, featuring some sobering satellite images of pollution flooding into the oceans.

"The satellite images show pollution run off from agriculture, fertilizers, and nitrates have caused dead zones in the oceans. These are areas with no life whatsoever. There are over 400 dead zones in the oceans including one that takes up most of the Gulf of Mexico," explained Stewart.

"That's why the movie Oceans is so important. To the general public the oceans are out of sight and out of mind. They don't know that 90 per cent of life on Earth lives in the oceans or that oceans give us 70 per cent of the oxygen in the air that we breathe.

"So, to bring people the majesty of the life underwater is going to give them an appreciation for these animals and make them care about the fact that they are being destroyed."

It's a strong and important message that will hopefully raise awareness for such environmental concerns.

Audiences who see the film during the first week of release will actually help the cause as a portion of the proceeds will be donated to ocean conservation. Just think, you can actually help the environment from the comfort of an air conditioned movie theater.

Alex O'Loughlin has no need for his own back-up plan

Alex O'Loughlin and Jennifer Lopez cozy up in The Back-Up Plan opening Friday.

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Alex O'Loughlin has become a regular presence on TV screens with work on The Shield, Moonlight and Three Rivers — and he just finished filming the pilot for a remake of Hawaii 5-0.

But the hardworking Australian actor is no stranger to movie screens either. In his latest, the romantic comedy The Back-Up Plan, he goes toe-to-toe with none other than Jennifer Lopez. O'Loughlin sat down with Metro to talk about working with J.Lo, film versus television and his undying love for vampires.

Q **What was it like going up against J.Lo?**

A It was fantastic. It's funny when you word it like that, going up against her. It's like, yeah I guess I sort of was in a way. But it never felt like that. She's a pro, she's completely approachable. I mean, we met and became buds before we did the thing, so by the time it was first day on set, cameras rolling, we were like old mates, which is great.

Q **Do you have a preference between playing heroes and villains?**

A I really like playing villains. It feels to me like — and this isn't to say that I've ever done anything clever or talented in my career yet — but I feel like when I'm playing a villain, I can get away with a lot more. You go like, "Hey, listen, what if this guy had a tattoo on his face?" And the director's like, "Yeah! That's f—ing evil!" But as the hero, you're like, "Hey, can we...?" "No! You're the hero. Just look and smile." And that's a ridiculous sort of stereotypical response, but I just feel freer when I'm a villain.

Q **How about a preference between working in film and television?**

A Well, film. I don't know who would prefer television over film. The only good thing about TV is it's a steady paycheck. That's not true ... but look at me, dude. I just finished a pilot. I'm beat. You do 15, 16-hour days every day. You've got to churn the work out.

The Back-Up Plan opens Friday

‘Dancing’ to the beat

Stars may be amateurs, but DWTS band is all pro

Three hours until showtime. The Dancing With the Stars ballroom is empty except for the hosts, the dancers and the band.

The professional dancers and their celebrity partners — already in costumes and makeup — have been rehearsing their routines for almost a week. The 18-member orchestra, on the other hand, just saw the night’s music and in just a few hours, they’ll be playing the music for the first time in front of millions.

On today’s playlist? Lady Gaga, Louis Armstrong, the Bangles, Cole Porter, a song in Spanish and a show tune from Chicago.

Musical director Harold Wheeler is in his trailer, just outside the studio. “We don’t rehearse until (show day),” he says. “That’s why it’s a great orchestra.”

AP PHOTO/ABC/ADAM LARKEY

Bachelor Jake Pavelka moves to the beat of the DWTS band.

Dancing With the Stars airs Mondays at 8 p.m. on CTV

Wheeler, a Broadway veteran, has been playing with the same group of musicians for more than a decade. The 66-year-old composer and conductor brings them along on his various gigs, which include movie and TV soundtracks and, this year, performing at the Academy Awards. When they’re not working with Wheeler, all are studio musicians for hire. The same goes for the singers.

“They’re on many, many recordings everywhere,” Wheeler says, “but on Mondays and Tuesdays, they’re mine.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Troubling times for King?

During a presentation to advertisers last week in New York City, CNN trotted out many of its big names: Anderson Cooper, John King, Sanjay Gupta, Candy Crowley, Nancy Grace and Wolf Blitzer, among them.

Larry King, host of what is still one of the network's top-rated shows, appeared only in a film clip that flashed by for a second or two.

These are troubled times for Larry King Live as it approaches its 25th anniversary in June. The show's viewership for the first three months of the year dropped 44 per cent from 2009, and it usually trails Fox News Channel's Sean Hannity and MSNBC's Rachel Maddow in the time slot.

Once a pioneer, King now fights for relevancy.

There was a time when such a thought would be heresy.

"In the early days of the 1980s and 1990s, that was the place to go to get interviewed," television historian Tim Brooks said. "Any politician, including presidential candidates, had to be on his show. That brought a lot of respect to CNN, and to cable as well."

"In the early days of the 1980s and 1990s, that was the place to go to get interviewed."
Historian Tim Brooks

King moderated a memorable 1993 debate between Ross Perot and Vice-President Al Gore. He even tried to mediate peace in the Middle East, bringing Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, King Hussein of Jordan and Israel's Yitzhak Rabin together on a show. His influence was equally big with entertainers. A list of bold-faced names who had sat across the table from King would take in practically everyone in the entertainment business.

In those days, Larry King was New Media. Today, entertainers have many options, from visiting hip hosts such as Jon Stewart to maintaining their own Twitter feeds. King was never a challenging interviewer, but now politicians can find downright friendly ones.

It leaves King with pleasant but meandering chats with Willie Nelson, or the chance to talk to Martina Navratilova about her cancer treatment. On the day Conan O'Brien agreed to go to TBS, King brought three reporters in to chat about it.

Think about it. When was the last must-see Larry King interview?

For a network based in Atlanta and with a large New York office, King usually works out of Los Angeles. His executive producer since 1992, Wendy Walker, works from her home in San Diego, where CNN has built a control room for her. Some who know King suggested that's a disconnected arrangement, and wonder whether he is getting the support he needs in booking and promotion. If you see an ad for CNN, it's far more likely to feature Cooper or Blitzer.

CNN would not make King, Walker or network president Jon Klein available for interviews.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Larry King Live celebrates its 25th anniversary this June, however, viewership of the show dropped 44 per cent for the first three months of this year

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 4/21/10	251	308	3 CBC	NHL Hockey Vancouver Canucks at Los Angeles Kings. (Subject to Blackout) (Live) (CC)						CBC News: The National		(:05) The Hour
	254	-	8 OMNI	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Metropia
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Access H.	American Idol The contestants raise money for charity. (CC)				CSI: NY "Battle Scars" (CC)		CTV News
	-	-	10 JOY	Frasier (CC)	The Insider	The Practice (CC)		Third Watch "Ladies' Day"		P3	Diya (CC)	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones (N) (PA) (CC)		Kitchen Nightmares (N) (CC)		Melrose Place "Nightingale"		News
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N) (CC)	America's Next Top Model (N)		Law & Order: SVU		The Listener "The Journey"		A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	The Office	The Office	Mercy (N) (CC)		Family	Family	Cougar Town	Cougar Town	EP Daily
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	America's Next Top Model (N)		Fly Girls (N)	High Society	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Old Christine	Accidentally	Criminal Minds "100" (CC)		CSI: NY "Battle Scars" (CC)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Mercy (N) (CC)		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		KING 5 News
	602	568	19 W	Supernanny (CC)		Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	Cupcake Girls	Cupcake Girls	Between Truth and Lies (2006, Suspense)		
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Middle	The Middle	Family	Family	Cougar Town	Cougar Town	KOMO 4 News
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	White Fang ★★ (1991) Klaus Maria Brandauer, Ethan Hawke.				Seinfeld	King	Cold Case
	291	383	27 PBS	ArtZone	Steves Europe	Through a Dog's Eyes (N)		P.O.V. "Food, Inc." The food industry in America. (N) (CC)				Cohen
	290	382	23 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	American Idol The contestants raise money for charity. (CC)				Q13 FOX News at Ten (N)		Family Guy
	-	364	43 PBS	Freshwater Seas		Being Served	Keeping Up	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Lake Erie: Ohio's Great Lake	
	296	654	34 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	The Office	Name Is Earl	South Park	Half & Half	Fast Cash	Street Court	Cold Case
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	America's Next Top Model (N)		Fly Girls (N)	High Society	KTLA 5 News at 10 (N) (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	66 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Maury (CC)	
	297	652	57 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	According-Jim	Family Guy	South Park	Scrubs (CC)
	199	311	76 STR	CTV News	NTV Latenight News		Late Show W/Letterman		Late Late Show/Ferguson		Inside Edition	Seinfeld
news	502	390	29 NW	CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		Doc Zone (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (N) (CC)				Larry King Live (CC)		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	MLB Baseball New York Yankees at Oakland Athletics. (Subject to Blackout) (Live)						Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Ultimate Fight
	400	400	30 TSN	(6:30) SportsCentre (CC)		Off the Record	Mayweather	Boxing		Motoring 2010	Motorcycle	SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Ghost Hunters Academy		Destination Truth (CC)		Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Ghost Hunters Academy		Ghost Hunters
	410	403	54 SCR	Score Now		Score Now		Score Now		Score Now		Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Pass Time	Pass Time	Pass Time	NASCAR Hub	Racing Chef	NASCAR	NASCAR Hall of Fame		Pass Time
	416	409	144 GLF	Italian Serie A Soccer		Toronto	Whitecaps	Gol TV News	Foot Brazil	Paid Program	Spanish Primera Soccer	
family	552	543	25 YTV	That's-Weird	Family Biz	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Rules	Survive This	To Be Indie	Family Biz	Prank Patrol
	555	545	50 TEL	Johnny Test	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Chicken
	557	541	51 FAM	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	553	546	53 TRE	Little Bear	Toopy	Max & Ruby	Dragon	Backyard	Ni Hao	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Rivers	Wild at Heart	The Great Wall of China		Beethoven "Love and Loss"		The Rebirth of an Orchestra		Empire-Word
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Due South "Flashback" (CC)		Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	According-Jim
	570	580	24 MM	(6:00) VideoFlow (CC)		UR11		America's Best Dance Crew		My Date	My Date	MuchMeg
	600	564	48 H&G	House	House	Holmes on Homes (CC)		Agent-Agent	Property Shop	Property	Unsellables	House
	615	520	61 A&E	Bounty Hunter	Exterminator	Exterminator	Exterminator	Bounty Hunter	(:31) Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter
	628	584	62 SPKE	The Ultimate Fighter (N)		Best of PRIDE Fighting		Countdown to Aldo vs. Faber		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Trek: Voyager
	521	560	63 TLC	Addicted "Anne & Michael"		Hoarding: Buried Alive (CC)		Addicted "Anne & Michael"		Strange Sex (CC)		Addicted
	616	522	63 SHO	Relic Hunter (CC)		I Me Wed (2007, Romance-Comedy) Erica Durance. (CC)				Secret Diary	Pure Pwnage	Law-Order
	620	523	70 BVO	White Collar "Flip of the Coin"		Law & Order "Expert" (CC)		Without a Trace (CC)		White Collar "Flip of the Coin"		Red Shoe
	601	562	41 SLC	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada	What	Real Housewives, Orange		Real Housewives-Atlanta		Runway
	520	505	42 DIS	Mayday Partnair Flight 94.		Daily Planet (CC)		Mayday Partnair Flight 94.		I Could Do	I Could Do	Deadly Catch
	522	506	44 HIS	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Nostradamus Effect (CC)		Ice Road Truckers (N)		Ice Pilots NWT (CC)		Dive Detect
	627	528	45 SPC	Supernatural (N) (CC)		InnerSpace	Stargate SG-1 "Space Race"		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)	
	294	650	67 TBS	House/Payne	House/Payne	Lopez Tonight		Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Lopez Tonight
	619	525	48 TROP	Dog Whisperer (CC)		Hoarders "Gail and Warren"		Hoarders "Patty; Bill" (CC)		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Spoiled
	603	561	69 FN	Chopped "Rattle & Roll"		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Diner, Drive-In	Unwrapped	Chopped "Rattle & Roll"		Iron Chef Am.
	-	-	69 AMC	The Outlaw Josey Wales (CC)		Pale Rider ★★★ (1985, Western) Clint Eastwood, Michael Moriarty. (CC)					Breaking Bad "Mas" (CC)	
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Lucky Louie	(:35) Hot Box	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:00) Passchendaele (2008)		Away We Go ★★ (2009) John Krasinski.			(:45) Righteous Kill ★★ (2008) Robert De Niro. (CC)			
	581	566	101 MTV	The Challenge: Fresh Meat 2		MTV Live	Sex News	16 and Pregnant "Kailyn"		The Challenge: Fresh Meat 2		MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Unscripted (N)	Twist of Faith	Poltergeist: The Legacy		Fires Within ★★ (1991) Jimmy Smits, Greta Scacchi. (CC)				Paid Program
	-	-	105 MUL	My Queen	Immortal	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Sabor Musical	Temas	Patrol World

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Bertinelli hits another milestone
Just days before Valerie Bertinelli turns 50 Friday, she achieved another personal goal: finishing the Boston Marathon. Bertinelli told People — just after running the 26.2-mile race, her first marathon, in 5:14:37 — "I feel euphoric." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Ringless Bullock comes out of hiding

LEAVE SANDRA ALONE! Sandra Bullock emerged from hiding again — and her wedding ring was nowhere in sight, people.com reports.

During its Monday night broadcast, Entertainment Tonight showed a photograph of the star taking a hike in Northern California. In the snap reportedly taken last Friday, a somber looking Bullock wears a hat and scarf and little makeup.

Noticeably missing from her left hand: The vintage platinum band with intertwining diamonds she has worn since wedding to Jesse James nearly five years ago.

Bullock, 45, has only been seen once before in public since her husband's cheating scandal erupted in early March. (Since Michelle "Bombshell" McGee claimed an 11-month affair with James, four other women have come forward claiming involvement with the motorcycle mogul. James, 41, is said to be seeking treatment at an undisclosed facility.) On March 31, the Oscar winner — concealed by a floppy green hat and umbrella-bearing assistants — briefly left her Hollywood Hills home to visit the Beverly Hills home of her friend, investor Gabriel Brenner.

How is she doing now? "She is devastated but being methodical and trying to make the right decision about what to do next," a Bullock source says in the latest issue of Us Weekly. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kardashian: Mom told me to pose nude

GOOD OLD FASHIONED FAMILY VALUES Kim Kardashian only posed for Playboy because her mother told her to, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The socialite admits she regrets baring all for the publication in December 2007, but was urged to do so by mother Kris Jenner to promote their Keeping Up with the Kardashians TV programme.

"'Go for it,' my mother said, 'They might never ask you again. Our show isn't on the air yet. No one knows who you are. Do it and you'll have these beautiful pictures to look at when you're my age,'" she said.

However, posing in another naked shoot for Harper's Bazaar, the 29-year-old beauty admits she feels more comfortable this time around.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

DAVID ARCHULETA didn't expect to be spotted at a gay bar, **JIM CARREY** isn't a fan of gossip, and **SARAH SILVERMAN** is asking the tough questions.

@DavidArchie Mental note to self: always ask where before you go! Wasn't my kind of place lol, and I had no clue! I guess you live and learn.

@JimCarrey Watching and reading gossip is like eating somethin' greasy. Fun at first but afterwords u feel gross. It seems 2 drain your vitality.

@SarahKSilverman Why aren't hair elastics allowed in movies or TV? Must every ponytail be wrapped in hair??

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Elin snaps up pricey real estate

GO 'HEAD GIRL, SPEND THAT CASH Elin Nordegren's recent purchase of a $2 million home in Sweden have some speculating that the salvaging of her marriage to Tiger Woods isn't going so well, but sources close to the couple insist Nordegren won't be taking the kids all the way to Europe.

"No way would Tiger let Elin leave the U.S.A. with his children. You can say whatever you want about Tiger as a husband, but he has always been a great father," a source tells Popeater. "He knows his marriage is probably over, but he will never give up on those kids. They mean the world to him." METRO WORLD NEWS

Lohan in big debt trouble

NEXT UP: VISA REHAB
Despite not having made a film in more than a year, Lindsay Lohan has reportedly done nothing to curb her spending, and it's taking its toll, according to Radar Online.

"Lindsay owes credit cards $600,000," a source says. "One card cut her off last week, and it's only a matter of time before all her other ones cut her off, too." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ex-action star fights back

EXCEPT THERE'S NO SCRIPT FOR THIS ONE, STEVE
Stephen Seagal isn't taking his former assistant's allegations of sexual harassment and sex trafficking lying down. The former action star plans to counter Kayden Nguyen's lawsuit with his own suit for breaching their confidentiality agreement, according to Radar Online. Seagal's lawyer also claims that Nguyen was initially let go because of illegal activities. Nguyen's suit claims he treated the young woman as a personal "sex toy," among other charges. METRO WORLD NEWS

Gibson's baby mama playing coy about split

HEY - SHE'S GOT A FIFTEENTH MINUTE TO EXTEND, FOLKS
Oksana Grigorieva is being coy about why she and Mel Gibson really split up, but she will say there's more to it than what's been reported.

"I can tell you that ... we have split up, suddenly and recently," Grigorieva said at a press conference in Moscow. "Unfortunately, I cannot give you the reason. But you will find out everything quite soon." She also divulged that she's planning to get the hammer-and-sickle tattoo on her ankle that Gibson suggested removed. METRO WORLD NEWS

Aniston to sit in director's seat

IT'S A SAFE BET THERE'S A NO-ANGELINA CASTING POLICY
Jennifer Aniston is getting ready to step behind the camera, gearing up to direct her first feature film, according to the Sun. "I have a project in development I'm going to direct," the former Friends star says, according to the newspaper. "After you get enough movies under your belt you sit back and go, 'What's next?'" METRO WORLD NEWS

Oprah jokes about bio

IF YOU CAN'T BEAT 'EM ...
Oprah Winfrey has finally addressed the allegations in Kitty Kelley's new unauthorized biography of the media queen. While presenting an award to Gayle King at the New York Women in Communications Matrix Awards, the last week "was a rough one" for King because the pal "sometimes cares more about my life than I do."

Winfrey joked, "Gayle got herself worked up with all my new daddies coming out," referencing the book's claim that Vernon Winfrey isn't her real father. METRO WORLD NEWS

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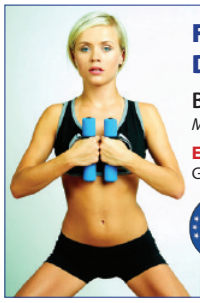

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Friday Sunny 13° / 8°

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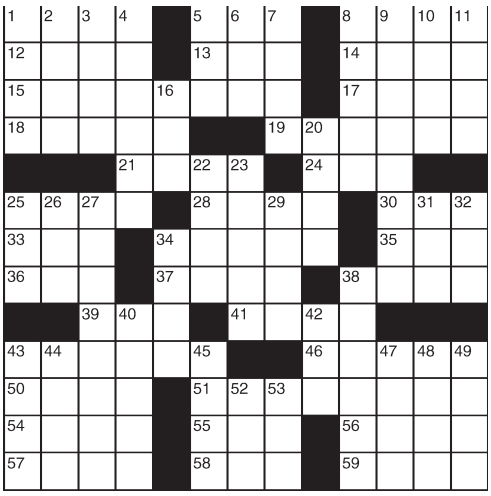
Take Five



ACROSS

1 Water barriers
5 Foolish one
8 Pack cargo
12 Bassoon's cousin
13 Leap
14 Georgetown athlete
15 Produce
17 Holly
18 List of candidates
19 Breathing hard, maybe
21 Retain
24 Goof up
25 FDR is on it
28 Verdi opera
30 Pub order
33 Important numero
34 Prejudiced sort
35 Afternoon social
36 Conclusion
37 A Great Lake
38 Yogi or Smokey
39 Long, long time
41 Verifiable
43 Earns
46 Throat ailment
50 Exam format
51 Free
54 Initial chip
55 Praise in verse
56 Teen's woe
57 Require
58 Witty one
59 2001, for one

DOWN

1 Kennel occupants
2 The third man
3 "— Lisa"
4 Boil
5 "Eureka!"
6 No teetotaler
7 Jet forth
8 Less outgoing
9 Stand
10 Courtroom call
11 Like paraffin
16 Old Olds
20 Radiator offering
22 Den
23 1 in 1,000,000?
25 Payable
26 Quaint stopover
27 Preside over
29 Active one
31 Grazing area
32 Audience
34 Crooked
38 Backstab
40 Lubricated
42 Work with
43 Haunted house sound
44 Sea eagle
45 Unhurried
47 "The Amazing —"
48 Italian volcano
49 Juror, in theory
52 Greek mountain
53 Plead

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

3								6
	1	4		5		3	7	
5		8				4		9
		6	3		2	8		
		3	8		9	7		
6		7				1		2
	9	1		4		6	5	
8								7

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

3	9	1	8	7	5	4	2	6
5	7	8	2	6	4	1	3	9
6	2	4	1	3	9	8	5	7
1	8	9	3	4	6	5	7	2
4	5	6	7	2	1	3	9	8
7	3	2	9	5	8	6	1	4
9	1	3	6	8	7	2	4	5
2	6	5	4	9	3	7	8	1
8	4	7	5	1	2	9	6	3

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Chicken with Noodles

INGREDIENTS:

2 1/2 to 3 pounds chicken breasts, thighs, and drumsticks
4 cups lower-sodium chicken broth (page 67)
2 large carrots, cut into 1/2-inch slices
1 large onion, chopped
1/4 tsp each salt and pepper
1 package medium-size regular noodles
1/4 cup cold water
2 tbsp all-purpose flour

METHOD:

1. Remove and discard chicken skin. Rinse chicken; drain and pat dry. In Dutch oven, combine chicken, broth, carrots, onion, salt and pepper. Bring to boil. Lower heat and simmer, covered, 30 minutes or until chicken is cooked through. Remove chicken from broth mixture. Set broth mixture aside. Cool chicken; remove and discard bones. Cut meat into bite-size pieces.

2. Bring broth mixture to boil over high heat. Add noodles. Return to boil. Lower heat and simmer, covered, 6 minutes.

3. Add chicken. In small bowl, whisk cold water and flour. Stir into chicken mixture. Cook, stirring constantly, until mixture starts to thicken. Cook and stir 2 minutes more or until mixture is thickened. Serve over mashed potatoes.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Money buys many things but it can't buy self-respect, so keep your standards up over the next 24 hours and don't get involved in anything devious.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Authority figures are likely to give you a bit of a hard time today but your mood is so positive at the moment that you won't let it get to you.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Make a mental effort to see the bigger picture today. If you allow yourself to get caught up in petty squabbles you will miss a golden opportunity.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
It is of the utmost importance that you are honest with people today, even to the extent of admitting to your failings.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
A power struggle is likely today but you must try to steer clear of it. This is not a good time to come down on one side or the other.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You may think you have all the answers, and it is certainly true that you have some of them, but there is a limit to everyone's knowledge.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Usually you are pretty smart when it comes to assessing the financial worth of something but you are allowing your emotions to lead you right now.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Even if you have the power to force others to do your bidding today the planets warn it won't do you much good. Use your powers of persuasion instead.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
It's okay to protect your interests, but it's not okay to be so aggressive that you risk turning people against you.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Sometimes Lady Luck seems to desert you for no good reason and this may be one of those days. Don't let it worry you.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
It should by now be obvious that you are never going to get along with a certain individual. All you can do is agree to differ and go your separate ways.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Avoid people who are loud and aggressive. Avoid people whose attitude makes your blood boil. You will be easily provoked today.

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This day in history

1509: Henry VIII ascends the throne of England on the death of his father, Henry VII.
1918: World War I: German fighter ace Manfred von Richthofen, known as "The Red Baron", is shot down and killed over Vaux sur Somme in France.
1960: Brasília, Brazil's capital, is officially inaugurated. At 9:30 am the Three Powers of the Republic are simultaneously transferred from the old capital, Rio de Janeiro.
1989: Tiananmen Square Protests of 1989: In Beijing, around 100,000 students gather in Tiananmen Square to commemorate Chinese reform leader Hu Yaobang.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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